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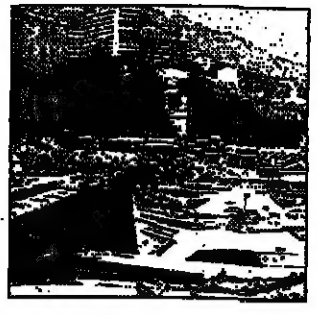
THE TIMES

No 64,370

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1992

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LA BELLE FRANCE 1

Beauty and a sense of danger: Passport to France offers a tempting mixture for travellers to Corsica
Weekend Times
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LA BELLE FRANCE 2

Thirty years in films, but French actress Catherine Deneuve is still a byword for beauty
Saturday Review
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DESIGNER TROUBLE

The creative fire of architect Sir James Stirling drew strong criticism as well as praise
Page 7
Obituary, page 17



BANDS ON THE RUN

Northern brass is on a march of conquest, bringing the oompah to southern climes
Weekend Times
Page 1

Summit leaders admit EC doubts

Major warns Brussels to curb powers

FROM GEORGE BROCK AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LISBON

MANY Europeans fear that the European Community is a "voracious super-state monster" running out of control. John Major warned his fellow EC leaders last night.

Speaking to the first Community summit since the Danes rejected the Maastricht treaty, the prime minister told the EC Commission that the time had come to hand back powers to national governments. He said that EC directives would have to be better justified in future and called for outmoded ones to be ditched if they did not accord with the principle of "subsidiarity", the notion that decisions should be made at the lowest practical level.

The EC leaders also decid-

ed to issue a clear signal to Austria, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland that the Community is ready to begin negotiations on their applications for EC membership as soon as the new Community budget has been agreed. Sources provided differing accounts of whether or not the Community will wait until the Maastricht treaty is ratified before starting the talks on enlargement. British officials insisted that Maastricht need not have been ratified by all the member states, but spokesmen for the French, Spanish and Irish governments said that no negotiations on extending the Community were possible until ratification was completed.

Mr Major did not offer any shopping list of the EC directives that he wanted revoked, and his officials were unable to detail them after the summit meeting. Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, has told colleagues that he asked the prime minister which EC laws he would like to see rescinded when they met in London earlier this week. However, he said that he was surprised that he had received no detailed answer.

Delay over top pay

The tricky decision over top people's pay has been put off for at least another two weeks while John Major deliberates on whether to accept recommendations from the Top Salaries Review Body.

The body's report, delivered to Downing Street yesterday, is understood to recommend pay rises of up to 30 per cent for senior civil servants, judges and military personnel. Page 6

Aids ruling

Legal action against people with HIV and Aids who knowingly spread the disease was ruled out by health secretary Virginia Bottomley, who said criminalising sufferers would worsen rather than ease the epidemic. Page 2

Gang rape

Scores of women trapped on a ship carrying Somali refugees to Yemen were raped in violence which left 70 dead at the hands of a gang on the boat. Page 10

Women's say

After a 14-hour Bundestag debate, German women won the final say in whether they want an abortion, but mainly Catholic Bavaria said it would challenge the decision in the constitutional court. Page 11

Record win

Great Britain's rugby league team equalled its highest margin of victory over Australia with a 33-10 win in Melbourne, levelling the series at 1-1. Page 31

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Point made: a pitchfork-stabbed dummy farmer sits on one of 300 tractors which blocked Euro Disneyland yesterday in protest at US influence on farm reforms

French stirring 1,000 years of rivalry, says Gummer

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY

BRITAIN yesterday presented France with detailed allegations of deliberate attacks by French trawlers on English fishing vessels off the Cornish coast earlier this week. John Gummer, the agriculture and fisheries minister, accused the French of "stirring up a thousand years of rivalry and hatred".

Mr Gummer's astonishing outburst came before he met Louis Mermaz, the French agriculture minister, to hand over a dossier of evidence based on interviews with the skippers of the English boats.

After lunching with M Mermaz on smoked Scottish salmon and English lamb at the ministry of agriculture, Mr Gummer was in less sullen mood and softened his earlier comments by saying that although Britain and France had quarrelled over the centuries they had also had great agreements and fought together in two world wars, but he added that he had told M Mermaz he would expect "immediate and very tough action" to punish the fishermen.

For his part, the French minister seemed anxious to sound a conciliatory note, expressing confidence that matters could be sorted out "with the friendship which is necessary between our two great countries".

In Concarneau, Brittany, Henri Jeantet, the owner of the *Larche*, one of the French trawlers involved in the clashes, dismissed the British version of events as grossly exaggerated. He said: "My captain admits that he fouled a couple of the nets, but he never did it deliberately. He would never do that." He denied that there had been any physical attacks on the English vessels.

According to the British account, the French trawlers deliberately towed their nets through the areas where the English boats were fishing, tearing the tangle nets from their anchorages and causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. One of the Cornish boats, the *St Ury*, also alleges that metal pipes and chains were thrown at her wheelhouse when she attempted to approach the *Larche* to advise on the position of her nets.

Cornish fishermen in Newlyn were unimpressed by Mr Gummer's verbal attack on the French and said the British government was their main enemy. Fishing organisations are furious over proposed conservation legislation that will limit the number of days a year fishing vessels spend at sea. They say this will merely allow foreign vessels to take an even bigger share of British fish stocks.

Dwindling stocks, page 13
Leading article, page 15

Ousted BP boss stands to receive £2m payoff

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ROBERT Horton, the former chairman and chief executive of BP who was ousted in a boardroom coup on Thursday, is likely to receive more than £2 million as a result.

The departure of Mr Horton, who last year earned £850,000 in salary and bonuses, was announced after the London market had closed, but BP shares immediately plunged in New York. Yesterday the fall in BP's share price from the value of £1.8 billion from the value of Britain's biggest oil company, and knocked 23 points off the London stock market.

Mr Horton, only two years

in the chair, was unpopular within the company: during his chairmanship he sacked thousands of staunch BP middle managers who had thought they had jobs for life.

When he was originally mooted for the BP chair, he told a colleague: "If I am made chairman, [David] Simon will stay on as my trusted lieutenant. If he is made chairman, I will leave." Mr Simon has now taken over as BP's chief executive.

£1.8bn off BP and Carol Leonard, page 19
Temps, page 20
Stock market, page 22

This little chauvinist pig went to Wimbledon

By SIMON BARNES

IT IS an annual ritual. We have the yearly scandal of the overpriced strawberries, the yearly suggestion of a sliding roof over centre court to keep out the rain, and the annual piece of out-and-out chauvinist-piggery. This year it came from Richard Krajicek, a 20-year-old Dutch player, who lost his third round match at Wimbledon yesterday.

"Eighty per cent of the top women players are lazy fat pigs who should not be allowed on the show courts," he said on Dutch radio. Naturally, we press people thronged to his post-match press conference to hear more. "I was exaggerating a little bit," he said. "I meant 75 per cent."

"My body fat is lower than his," said Martina Navratilova, when someone was brave enough to report Krajicek's remarks to the nine-times Wimbledon champion. We reported this back to

Krajicek. "Martina is not a fat pig," he pronounced. "She is not thick."

Another difference between Navratilova and Krajicek is that she won. "You don't judge people on their appearance, you judge them on their ability to play tennis," said Martina. "Sure, it's insulting. There is no reason to make statements like that."

Krajicek wasn't trying to gain cheap publicity. He was just in a sulk about the old canard of equal prize-money. Women get the same money as men in two of the four Grand Slam tournaments: in Australia and in the United States. Not in Paris, and no, not at Wimbledon. The winner of the gentlemen's singles at Wimbledon this year will receive £265,000; the winner of the ladies' singles £240,000. Either way, the money must help with the mortgage.

"I mean, we play five sets and they only play three sets. Don't you think it's ridiculous?" Krajicek said. A lot of

women like the idea of playing five sets of tennis. The difference in match-length is just an outdated convention. "We play much more," Krajicek grumbled on. "We get equally paid — so actually we get less paid if you look at it that way." Still, the idea of tennis as piece-work has yet to catch on. Perhaps the players should be paid by the game? Or by the shot?

It was left to Martina to add a breath of common sense and humanity to the proceedings. "The only reason this tournament is so big is because both men and women play. That is what makes the tournament, and that's why there should be equal prize-money."

But when asked what she might say to Krajicek, who was following her in the interview room, she gave a final, dazzling smile and declared: "I'm going to beat him up."

Wimbledon reports, pages 35-6



Thousands of school holiday bargains likely

Nearly half a million holidays for the busiest six weeks of the year are still going begging. Now the tour operators are playing cat and mouse to try to avoid cutting prices on the sacrosanct school holiday peak. Harvey Elliott thinks they will have little choice

TENS of thousands of peak summer holidays could be on sale at knock-down prices by the end of next week as Britain's tour operators face up to having to sell off packages for whatever they can get.

Heavily discounted deals are almost unheard of during the school summer holidays, when well over three million people usually go away. But this year some 400,000 packages are still available because the travel industry gravely miscalculated the number of holidays it should offer, increasing capacity by more than 30 per cent when demand had risen by at best 10 per cent.

crucial. I cannot believe there will be major discounting, because to do so would amount to committing commercial suicide. So far this summer, holidays have been selling at discounts of up to 40 per cent and tour operators badly need a good peak season to maintain their revenues."

Peter Rothwell of Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel agency chain, said: "There is still spare capacity in quite large numbers through July and August. People are certainly still coming in to book, but there just too many holidays on sale."

As the tour operators have to pay hotels and airlines in advance, then recoup the money from customers, any left unsold represents a direct loss. That is why prices have been cut to the bone in recent weeks with £259 packages going for as little as £139 within a week of departure.

Tour operators have, however, so far refused to cut peak period prices, hoping that they will sell remaining stock at full price and help to recoup some of their recent losses. But unless there is a sudden, and unlikely, rush to buy over the next few days, packages will have to be sold cheaply.

Roger Allard of Owners Abroad, the second-biggest tour operator, is convinced that there will be some discounting during the peak season. "Some destinations, such as Cyprus, Turkey, Greece and luxury villas in Majorca have gone already," he said. "But you can't buck the market and it is tough out there."

If the big operators do cut their prices, the effect will be felt most by small specialist organisations that will have to match to stay in business. Noel Josephides, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, which represents 120 small companies, said: "We are all in the same boat. Some destinations are already 90 per cent sold and others are only 50 per cent."

Few operators will talk about such a possibility for fear of making it inevitable, but they are watching each other's sales figures from day to day, knowing that the first to cut prices could start a chain reaction.

Andrew Wilson, commercial director of Thomas Cook said: "What happens to sales over the next few days is

"Customers will have to decide whether they want to book now and get a holiday where they want, when they want, but at the brochure price. Continues on page 18, col 8"

Travel, Saturday Review

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Minister rules out legal action against Aids carriers

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL action against people with HIV and Aids who knowingly spread the disease was ruled out yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary. Criminalising sufferers would worsen rather than halt the epidemic, she said.

The recent case of the south Birmingham man alleged to have infected several women had focused people's minds on the risks of casual, unprotected sexual intercourse. Mrs Bottomley told NHS managers meeting in Harrogate. But she added: "I am not convinced that it would be appropriate to pursue legal redress or statutory measures in this or similar cases. To drive HIV and Aids sufferers underground, to criminalise them, could so easily be

counter-productive in our drive to encourage people to come forward for testing and counselling."

In response to calls from some MPs for more draconian measures, Mrs Bottomley told journalists later that in cases where an individual was behaving irresponsibly and putting lives at risk, local authorities could use powers under the Public Health Control of Diseases Act, 1984, and the Infectious Diseases Regulations, 1985. These provide for a local authority, jointly with the health authority, to apply to a magistrate to remove a patient to hospital and detain them there.

But the act applies only to people suffering from Aids, not those infected with HIV, and it cannot be applied in retrospect. Health department officials said it would be for the courts to decide whether the act could be used to cover a person infected with HIV.

A change to the law was considered and rejected by the cabinet on Thursday when Mrs Bottomley reported on the Birmingham case. Ministers decided not to seek legislation to bring the law into line with Scotland, where prosecutions of people who knowingly spread HIV have been allowed since 1987.

Turning to the question of 24-hour cover by doctors, Mrs Bottomley said that the government remained firmly opposed to any relaxation of GPs' responsibility. She said that she regretted the outcome of the vote at the British Medical Association's conference on Tuesday to end 24-hour commitment. "Access to a family doctor, 24 hours a day in cases of urgent need, is one of the hallmarks of British general practice. I do not want to see it put at risk, nor do patients, who set great store by having access in an emergency to a doctor they know."

Five Scottish children are so ill with HIV complications that their cases have been classified as Aids, it was disclosed yesterday after a speech by the health minister Lord Fraser.

He told a conference in Edinburgh: "We know of 44 children who are themselves HIV positive, 12 of whom have already developed Aids." But the latest official Aids figures, published by the Scottish Office earlier this week, showed only seven children with the full blown condition.

Bill Dixon, technical manager of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said yesterday: "There is an awful lot of rubbish on the market as well as some good systems. Manufacturers are clearly worried about people tampering with their car's electronics because of the damage and danger that can occur."



Timely intervention: John McEvoy, who spotted the briefcase bomb under a car just before it exploded

Bomb was meant for mystery target

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Provisional IRA yesterday claimed responsibility for the 2lb briefcase bomb left under a car in a City of London street and said it was aimed at an unspecified prestigious target.

The incident will add to the growing list of IRA attacks on the mainland facing M15 when it takes up responsibility from Scotland Yard's special branch for overseeing counter-terrorist intelligence in Britain.

Yesterday, City of London police issued a call for witnesses and began door-to-door enquiries around the scene of the bomb, close to offices used by the Chase

Manhattan bank in Coleman Street.

The bomb was similar to one left in Victoria Street two weeks ago. This time the device was planted with a warning under a car in a City of London street and said it was aimed at an unspecified prestigious target.

The briefcase was spotted under a white Mercedes convertible by John McEvoy, a security guard. Minutes before it went off he told other security officers to contact police and evacuate the area and was turning away to find the owner of the car when the bomb went off.

The attack is the third on a

target in the City in the past two years. In April, a day after the general election, three people were killed by a car bomb close to the Baltic Exchange. The pattern of such IRA attacks, which have varied considerably since the start of the mainland campaign in 1988, will form part of the intelligence remit for M15 when it takes over.

Within the next few days a joint letter from the security service and the Yard will be sent to all chief constables with a note from Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, setting out what he hopes will happen.

An impatient man who ignored a police cordon sealing off Oxford Street during Thursday night's bomb alert

was jailed for three weeks by a magistrate yesterday. His solicitor later managed to win him bail at a hearing in front of a crown court judge.

Thomas Hyde, 43, from Herne Bay, Kent, was arrested an hour after the explosion while police were still receiving warnings of other possible devices. Marlborough Street magistrate Harold Cook told Hyde: "The police have a difficult enough job to do and behaviour like yours makes it even more difficult and puts the public at risk."

Alan Mullem, for the defence, said Hyde, a site supervisor, was anxious to reach his car at the end of a long, hard day and would lose his £17,000-a-year job.

Stores vow to defy ruling and open on Sunday

MANY supermarkets and DIY chains that open on Sundays will be doing business as usual tomorrow, despite the House of Lords ruling that backed local authorities' powers to curb Sunday trading. Other stores said they would not open under any circumstances.

Most councils said they would wait for the advice of the advocate general to the European Court in Luxembourg on July 8 on the legality of Sunday trading, although a ruling from the court is not expected until the autumn.

Never trade on Sunday? The law lords' ruling has changed few minds, writes Peter Victor

Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway will continue to trade on Sunday as they have done. They said the ruling had not helped to clarify the position on Sunday trading and that they would continue to serve the customers who want to shop on Sunday.

Tesco, which has been regularly serving 500,000 customers at 200 stores on Sundays, said: "The law lords' ruling emphasises the need for urgent reform to end the confusion. We believe that customers should have the freedom to shop on Sunday if they wish."

Wickes, the building supplies and DIY retailer involved in the ruling, said 63 of its 65 outlets that normally open on Sunday would do so this weekend. The two Wickes exceptions are the Huddersfield and Dewsbury branches, subjects of the law lords' judgment in the case brought by Kirkcaldy Council.

A spokesman for the Co-op said it wished to adhere to the wishes of the Keep Sunday Special campaign and remain closed. "We don't want to go into Sunday trading but we've had to where competitive pressures apply."

Selldidges had no plans to open on Sunday. Sears group, its parent company, said it hoped it would not be drawn into a position where it

had to open some of its 3,750 stores on Sundays.

John Greene, head of corporate affairs for C&A, said the chain would not be opening any stores on Sundays. "We have advertised our stance... We don't really believe we have the right to pick and choose what bits of the law we will choose to ignore. We felt particularly unhappy about what I can only describe as the anarchy that has been going on around us for the last six months or so."

Kirkcaldy council in West Yorkshire said it was writing to Sunday trading stores in its area to underline their obligation to observe the law. "If they uphold the law then we will take no further action. But if not, then we will react to complaints about Sunday trading and prosecute," a spokesman said. The council's stance, however, was in contrast to that of many other councils.

Wakefield said: "It is a little premature to start taking injunctions today against Sunday traders and then find they have closed this Sunday." Southampton said: "We are basically on hold until we have a decision on Sunday trading from the European Court of Justice."

Exeter was considering the position and Plymouth said the judgment would not necessarily lead to a range of prosecutions. Bournemouth said: "It is a very grey area. Most people will be waiting to see what happens in the EC." Birmingham said: "Our policy has been to uphold the law. We have carried on with bringing cases."

Teaching initiative extended

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday announced an extension of the government's £25 million programme to create centres of excellence in technology teaching.

The first 100 beneficiaries of the Technology Schools Initiative will receive up to £500,000 each this financial year. Mr Patten has invited further bids for 1993-4, although the size of the fund has yet to be determined.

Technology has become a problem subject since Britain made its study compulsory. The national curriculum is being rewritten on Mr Patten's orders, after criticism from inspectors, academics and industrialists.

Few city technology colleges have been opened because of lack of business sponsorship. They were intended to provide a national network of elite technical institutions, but only 15 have been approved, 13 of which are already open.

The initiative was launched last year as an alternative for local authority and grant maintained schools. Some authorities refused to take part. Others criticised the share of the fund allocated to grant maintained schools.

Sixth form colleges were urged yesterday to offer more vocational courses when they become independent next April, by Nigel Forman, the education minister, at a conference for college principals in Cambridge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Halford refuses to discuss allegation

Alison Halford, the suspended Merseyside assistant chief constable who is claiming sex discrimination, refused to answer questions at her industrial tribunal yesterday about an alleged familiarity with an unnamed chief constable. Miss Halford, 52, was asked at the tribunal about references in her diary to the chief constable whom she met at an Association of Chief Police Officers conference in Eastbourne, East Sussex.

John Hand, QC, representing James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, asked whether she had applied to the unnamed police chief to be his deputy. Miss Halford replied: "I am not prepared to answer that. Mr Hand." He continued: "I am dealing with this in the most discreet way I possibly can. You said you are not prepared to answer. Will you answer this next question? It [the diary] suggests there was a degree of familiarity between you and the person mentioned there." Miss Halford again refused to answer.

She was being cross-examined on the 27th day of the tribunal in Manchester, where she claims she was denied nine promotions to deputy chief constable because of sex discrimination by Mr Sharples. Sir Philip Myers, the regional inspector of constabulary, the Home Secretary and Northamptonshire police authority.

Howard calls for era of council co-operation

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, called yesterday for a new era of co-operation and understanding between central and local government, declaring that neither he nor the Cabinet wanted to centralise powers in Whitehall. Addressing an audience at the annual conference in Scarborough of the Association of District Councils, Mr Howard said: "The message for the year 2000 has to be partnership, partnership between government, local authorities, the private sector and, first among equals, individual citizens."

His conciliatory tone was laced with a firm warning to councils that the government would not hesitate to chargecap them if they attempted to increase the burdens on local people next April when the new council tax replaces the community charge.

Ship holed by rocks

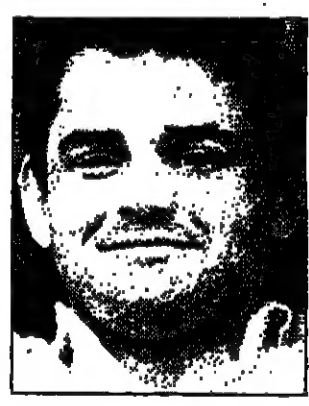
A hole was gouged in the 2,000-tonne *Granduelle* when the vessel hit rocks, known as the Maidens, five miles off Larne, Northern Ireland, last night. The crew of 20 stayed on board as the ship limped back to Larne but 21 non-crew members were taken ashore. The 21 were from the Commissioners of Irish Lights, the body that services lighthouses and buoys around the Irish coast. They were on their way to service the lighthouse at the Maidens. Clyde Coastguard said: "As the vessel was not irretrievable the master took the precaution of evacuating non-essential personnel so that he could try and take the ship back to Larne."

Tears for Ravenscraig

Workers at the Ravenscraig steel plant, near Glasgow, were said to have been in tears yesterday after finishing their final shifts before the plant closes today. They were told to leave the complex only two hours into the working day. Tommy Johnston, deputy union convenor, said: "There were a lot of guys with tears in their eyes as they said goodbye to old friends at the gate." More than 4,000 jobs have been lost at Ravenscraig and Clydesdale in the past two years. Officially, the plant's last day is today. Motherwell District Council will mark the closure by releasing black balloons outside the gates at noon. Scottish National Party councillors intend to boycott the event, which they called an insult to the workforce. They will lay two wreaths at the gates. British Steel announced the closure of Ravenscraig in January.

Carling libel award

Will Carling, right, the England rugby union captain, accepted undisclosed libel damages and an apology from the *Daily Mirror* over a report that he used an obscene swear word during a television broadcast. The High Court was told that an article in October 1991 wrongly quoted Mr Carling, 26, as swearing during a team talk on the eve of the World Cup semi-final match between England and Scotland.



Sir Richard Francis

Sir Richard Francis, director general of the British Council and a former director of BBC news and current affairs, died in hospital yesterday aged 58. Sir Richard joined the BBC as a trainee after army service, and as a producer on *Panorama* covered wars in the Congo and Vietnam. In 1972, he left his post as assistant head of current affairs to become controller, BBC Northern Ireland. He later became a member of the BBC board of management, as director of news and current affairs, and was also managing director of BBC Radio. He left the BBC in 1986 and within a year was director general of the British Council. A BBC spokesman said yesterday: "Britain will miss a fine ambassador and all of us will miss a fine colleague and a powerful voice for public service broadcasting."

Beck's jail appeal

Frank Beck, a convicted paedophile, has been given leave to appeal against life sentences for offences committed during the 13 years he ran Leicestershire's children's homes. Beck, 50, a social worker, was given five life terms and 24 years' jail last November after being convicted of sexually and physically abusing youngsters and former staff until 1986. His appeal before three judges will be heard this year or early next year. A government enquiry into the running of Leicestershire County Council's children's homes during Beck's reign is due to complete hearing evidence next week.

CORRECTION

Our report of the meeting of Lloyd's names (June 25) incorrectly stated that Mr Allan Navratil had lost £650,000. Mr Navratil in fact told the meeting: "I have 650,000 reasons to feel aggrieved," which was a reference to his bank guarantee.

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CLOSING DATE
15th JULY 1992

A SPAT has broken out between the elegant ladies of *Harpies* and *Queen*, the glossy magazine concerned with fashion and the doings of the beau monde, and those whom they would doubtless term as the "wimmin" running a new publication known as *Harpies* and *Queen*, devoted to such issues as sexism, poverty, violence and humour.

The problem, you will have guessed, surrounds the title of Scotland's first feminist magazine which, according to the National Magazine Company, publisher of *Harpies* and *Queen*, infringes its trade mark and causes confusion.

The company asked *Harpies* and *Queen* to confirm that they would stop using

The ladies are unhappy. The "wimmin" see no problem. Kerry Gill on a dispute between two very different publications

the name by close of business last night or face court action. Lesley Riddoch, one of the founders of the feminist magazine, said that they had not the slightest intention of doing so. "We think we have a strong case. The word *quines* is an old Scots word still widely used, particularly in the northeast of Scotland. It means lass or young woman and is one of the few words describing women to have no unsavoury undertones. The word would draw a parallel between the two magazines."

Greek mythical figures who plucked men from the land of the living and took them into the underworld. They were regarded as dangerous and malevolent female forces, which was the way feminists were regarded in our society. The term *harpies* was used because there were three mythological harpies and there were the three women who established the magazine.

The founders of *Harpies* and *Queen* say they are amazed that anyone could draw a parallel between the two magazines.

Gloria Ricks, of National

Anglo-French dispute off the Scillies highlights wider issues facing the troubled fishing industry

Nations vie for world's dwindling sea harvest

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Anglo-French fishing skirmish off the Isles of Scilly is a symptom of a wider battle in which two major powers are chasing too few fish. Competition for dwindling stocks is confined to European Community waters. Since Iceland made the first move in the mid-1970s, nearly all maritime countries have declared 200-mile fishing zones and jealously guard access to them.

A striking example of the wealth this can bring is the Falkland Islands which now operate a fishing zone ranging from 150 to 200 miles. Income from the sale of fishing licences is running between £20 million and £30 million a year, enabling the islanders to survive without subsidy from Britain (apart from the cost of defence).

While national fleets compete for dwindling fish stocks within the EC's waters, the Community has been engaged in a long-running dispute with Canada over alleged over-fishing, mainly by long-range Spanish and Portuguese vessels, on the fringes of the Grand Banks off Newfoundland. Parts of the fishing grounds, which have drawn European fishermen for more than 400 years, lie outside Canada's 200-mile zone.

Canada can control fishing within its zone, but valuable species including cod and flounder cross into and out of international waters in seasonal migrations, making them vulnerable to plunder by foreign vessels. The Canadians, who are alarmed by a rapid fall in the number of adult cod capable of spawning, are pressing for coastal states to be given increased rights over fish stocks.

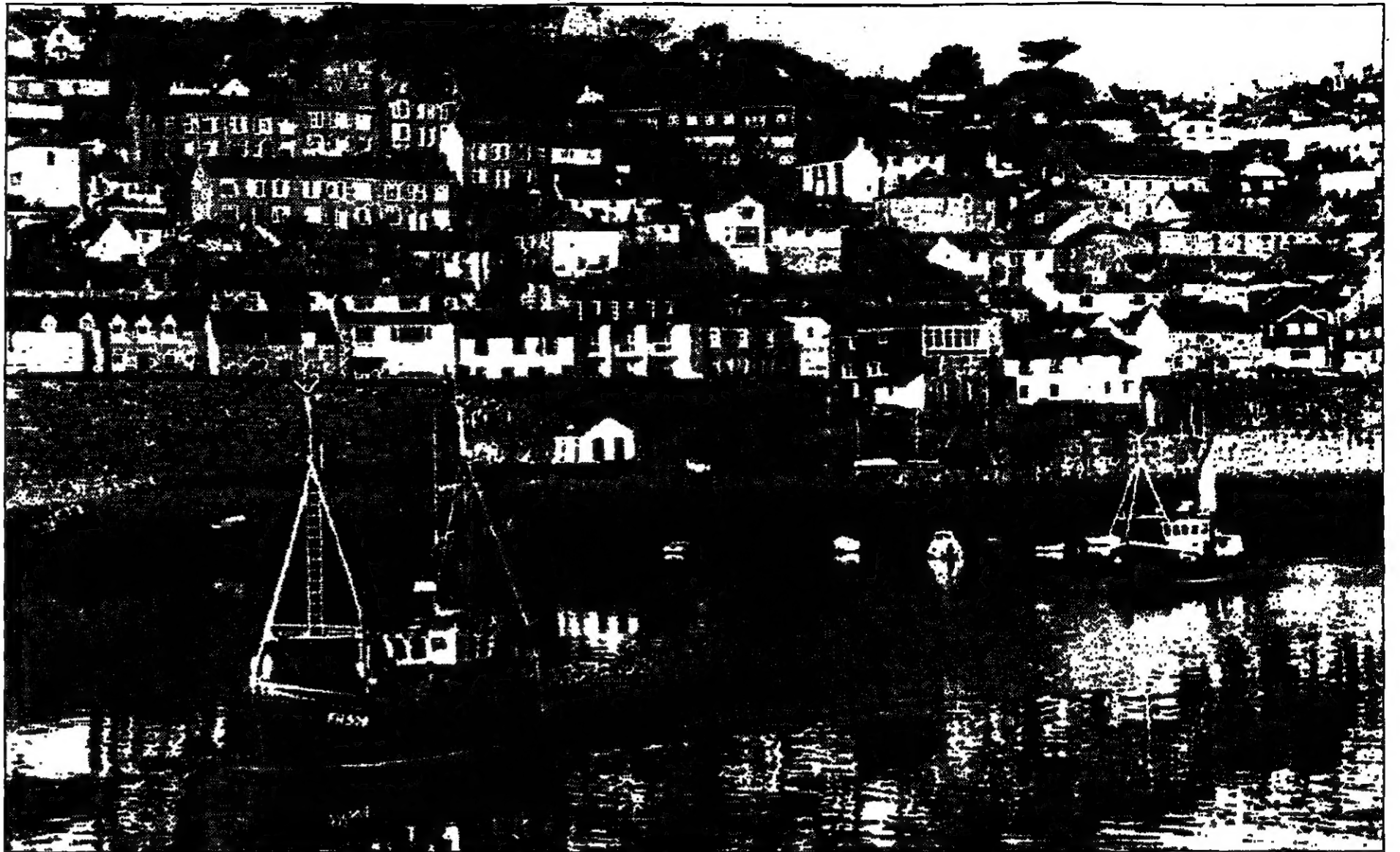
The total world fish catch, of which about a quarter is taken by European boats, has risen fivefold over the past four decades from 20 million tonnes to nearly 100 million tonnes a year, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

This expansion has been made possible by rapid technological advance, including on-board freezing and processing that enables fleets to operate far from their home ports.

Many of the more familiar species of fish are severely depleted or being fully exploited. One avenue for expansion is aquaculture, or fish farming, which already accounts for about 12 per cent of world fish production. Salmon farming now employs more people in Scotland than coal mining.

In the EC, the main worry is the rapid decline since the late eighties of North Sea cod and haddock. That is attributed partly to over-fishing, and the use of nets that catch too many juvenile fish, but also to climatic and environmental changes that scientists still do not fully understand.

One way of reducing pressure on cod, haddock, mackerel and other popular fish, which are caught in the relatively shallow waters above the continental shelf, would



All quiet on the western approaches: Britannia IV and Sardia Louise leave Newlyn for calmer waters off the Isles of Scilly yesterday

EC blamed as rival crews fish and make up

English and French fishermen are reserving their best broadsides for their own governments, Lin Jenkins reports

IN THE troubled waters of the Western approaches fishing grounds, the *entente cordiale* was restored yesterday. Two of the Cornish fishing boats involved in Wednesday's skirmishes returned to retrieve their nets in the shadow of HMS *Alderney*, the fishery protection vessel, as a stricken French trawler limped in to their home port of Newlyn.

There was no sign of the animosity of recent days. Relationships were friendly as the French boat, not one of those implicated in the clashes, sought help for her damaged propeller. At sea, the *Britannia IV* and *Sardia Louise* saw no French vessels.

Cornish fishermen were keen to dispel suggestions

that clashes with the French were a big issue. Indeed, they rounded on John Gunmer, the fisheries minister, and the government as the real villains threatening the industry. Elizabeth Stevenson, secretary of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said she wished Mr Gunmer would be as brave in defending the industry as he was in criticising the French.

"The UK government has made a total lach-up of the whole British fishing industry. We have got the most lucrative waters of any EC member state, nearly all the

Newlyn's harbour master, was playing down the trouble. After 20 years in his job he now doubles as the French consul in the area, so found his affinity split.

"We work a lot with the boats from Brittany. We have a good liaison and everyone gets on well. The problem is that there are too many boats chasing too few fish," he said. The trouble stemmed from the fact that the fishing grounds were off the British coast and looked as if they ought to belong to Britain. "But unfortunately with the EC we are not allowed to say that." For Newlyn, with its 60 netters and 60 trawlers, the threat did not come from the French. "Our heyday as a fishing port has gone, but that's because of the restric-

tions facing the industry," he said.

The town's mayor, Jack Dixon, believed the incident would be no more than a hiccup in the relationship with their twin town Concarneau, ironically the home of the rogue French trawler. "If anything this dispute will only make our twinning links stronger."

John Gunmer was not the only landlubber getting it in the neck. Herve Jeantet, the director-general of Dellenne, the company that owns the *Larche*, described the British reaction to the affair as "excessive" and said that Charles Josselin, the French marine minister, had been disloyal to Breton fishermen by siding with the English.

Vessels	Tonnage
Belgium	215 25,000
Germany	800 55,000
Denmark	4,000 130,000
Spain	20,000 950,000
France	11,000 200,000
Ireland	1,500 50,000
Italy	20,000 300,000
Holland	1,000 180,000
Portugal	15,000 190,000
Britain	10,000 80,000

Source: European Commission
Figure are estimates based on 1989 data

Villagers plot fight with duke

By PAUL WILKINSON

Vegetable growers in Treeton, near Rotherham, a mining hamlet, are horrified because a southern toff plans to turn their allotments into a shopping and housing complex.

Never mind that only two are cultivated and the rest are occupied by waist-high grass and pigeon lofts, or that the toff is Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal and Chief Butler of England, the country's leading duke and earl and one of its wealthiest landowners.

His grace has reclaimed the family's ancient ownership of the site of the village pit which British Coal closed in February. His estate administrators plan a huge new development of the area, which includes Treeton's cabbage patches.

The parish council, which leases the allotments from the duke, says their poor condition could mean the land will be lost by default. The tenants, who pay 75p rent a year, are complaining like only Yorkshiremen can.

Ron Windle, one of the councillors, said: "It's well-known the duke wants these allotments back and we are playing into his hands if they are allowed to continue in this state. Margaret, his wife, who also sits on the parish council, said the village was split on the development.

Younger people would be happy to see the derelict colliery site cleaned up, but older villagers and the allotment holders wanted them to stay. "If they are to stand any chance of keeping them, they are going to have to get stuck in and cultivate them to show they care about them."

Nicholas Robinson, the duke's agent on the estate, said objections to the loss of allotments were expected. "If this plan goes ahead there will be a land exchange deal which will mean the village will have more public open spaces and land for allotments and we believe that most of the village would benefit."



Saved from the sea: Stephen Evans after being winched from the stranded boat on Monday

Boat rescue boy feared drowning

ONE of the teenagers rescued after two days adrift in the Bristol Channel told yesterday how he watched powerlessly as rescue boats and aeroplanes passed by without noticing his boat. Stephen Evans, 15, said that he was in constant fear of drowning and spent much of the second day unconscious from severe sunburn.

"A helicopter kept passing us and we were standing up waving our T-shirts and a towel. But they just didn't see us," he said at his home in Armanford, Dyfed, where he is recovering from the burns and from shock. "The waves were quite high and the boat was well down in the water. We must have been a tiny dot to them."

He and his friends Gareth Smith, 18, and Simon Roberts, 19, set off in a new speedboat from Pendine, Dyfed, last Saturday. Stephen was rescued from the boat by helicopter off Lundy Island on Monday after Gareth swam to the island and raised the alarm. Simon is still missing after trying to swim back to South Wales on the Saturday, after the boat's engine failed.

"On the Saturday, after Simon went into the water and swam off, I was hopeful that he would have reached the shore and raised the alarm," Stephen said. "But as time went on, I began to realise

that he could have drowned. On Saturday night, we could see the lights of the shore and, at one time, there was a very bright light pointing towards us. It seemed to flash straight at me and I thought: 'That's it - we've been seen.' But nothing happened."

"On the Sunday, we drifted until we were out of sight of the coast. We knew because of the number of planes and boats passing us that they were searching for us. But we just weren't spotted... there was nothing we could do."

"I don't remember anything about the second day, the Monday. I was unconscious for most of the time and Gareth said I was just staring blankly out to sea. I don't remember him going over the side and swimming towards the island. I don't even remember seeing an island. My only recollection is waking up in a hospital bed."

"All my life I have been scared that I might drown. It is not that I am afraid of the water, because I can swim, but I am dead scared of drowning... going under and not coming up again."

He was still under medical supervision yesterday, after suffering nightmares and vomiting. Gareth is in hospital in Barnstaple, Devon. Searchers are still trying to find Simon, although his family say they have accepted that he drowned.

Maxwell pensioners may sue

By TIM JONES

THOUSANDS of former employees of Robert Maxwell are considering suing some of the Mirror Group Newspapers' board of directors for £60 million.

The threat comes from people who were employed by various Maxwell publishing companies. They say certain MGN directors did not do enough to stop Maxwell's fraud and therefore bear some responsibility.

In a separate development, liquidators seeking to recoup assets for Maxwell pensioners are to seek summary judgments in the High Court next month for more than £400 million. Mr Justice Millett yesterday refused an application for the hearing to be deferred until September.

□ The Home Office denied that City of London Police or the Serious Fraud Office had tipped off the press about the arrests of Ian and Kevin Maxwell. In a Commons written reply, Charles Wardle, a junior minister, said it was policy that no information about impending arrests and searches should be given to the media.

Four found guilty of huge racket in stolen cars

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR men were convicted yesterday of taking part in the biggest stolen car racket ever investigated by Scotland Yard, involving hundreds of cars worth millions of pounds.

Popular high-performance cars were taken off London streets and resold with new identities, Southwark Crown Court, south London, was told.

The cars, ranging from Porsches to Peugeot 205 GTis and Ford Escort RS Turbos, were advertised in weekly magazines at just below the market price to cash buyers. Unknown to the buyers, the cars had been given the details of insurance write-offs after passing through the ring's specialist workshop.

Yesterday, after a three-month trial, the jury convicted Clarence Burrows, 31, of south Croydon, south London; Richard Emmanuel, 26, of Kingston, southwark; Anthony McDonald, 34, mechanic, of Norwood, south London; and Neville Hamilton, 36, a self-employed electrician, of Stratford, east London. They will be sentenced on Monday by Judge John Rogers, QC. Three other men were acquitted.

The four were charged with conspiracy to handle stolen goods involving a specimen number of 60 cars, half of which were Peugeots.

Police estimate the gang probably handled hundreds more cars worth millions of pounds. Officers traced eight cars exported to the West Indies.

One of the investigators said: "This was a sophisticated, organised gang of criminals, not a jeans and T-shirt gang. They were smartly dressed people dealing mainly in cash."

Led by Burrows, a young businessman, the gang operated a simple but efficient system, buying cars which had been crashed and written off by insurance companies. The cars, available for £500 to £1,200, are often sold to dealers and enthusiasts and the deals raised no suspicion: the cars can be used for spare parts or renovated. The advantage to the gang was that they often came with all their identification and log books.

The cars would be stripped of any identification and broken down. The gang would organise the theft of a car which closely matched the

wreck. The cars would be taken from the streets of south and southwest London. Police suspect young thieves may have worked to order.

Once delivered the stolen car would be altered at a garage run by McDonald. New identification plates and numbers taken from the scrapped car would be expertly fixed.

To complete the new identity, the gang forged service histories, cleaned the cars professionally and added details such as the stickers of genuine dealers. Emmanuel placed the advertisements in magazines and dealt with sales.

The gang first came under suspicion in 1989 after the Yard's stolen car squad received intelligence about stolen car operations. A special team of eight officers began investigations and mounted long-term observations on the garage in Brixton, south London.

Over months the officers in Operation Scallion built up details of cars coming and going and then began tracing back their origins. In November 1990, 140 officers carried out a series of raids.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Diana: her true story

I often ask myself: How can all these people want to see me? And then I get home and lead this mouse-like existence. Noody says Well Done!



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How Enfield began a cash revolution

THEY might remain a mystery to some, but hole-in-the-wall cash machines have undoubtedly revolutionised modern living since being introduced 25 years ago in north London. Yesterday the first machine were back outside Barclays Bank in Enfield to commemorate the anniversary.

John Shepherd-Barron and Ron Everett sipped champagne and orange juice and helped to unveil a plaque. Mr Everett, 66, a former bank employee who helped to persuade his superiors to try Mr Shepherd-Barron's invention, admitted that he resorted to a spot of skulduggery to ensure the success of the launch, in which the machine was supposed to dispense ten £1 notes to the comedian Reg Varney and Sir Thomas Bland, vice-chairman of Barclays.

"I was so apprehensive that when they pressed the button no money would come out, that I went inside, opened the safe and got £10 of notes. When they hit the

Nick Nuttall marks the 25th birthday of the machine that has become the shopper's saviour

button, I put the money in the drawer so it was there when they pulled it out," he said.

Subsequent mishaps with successors of the Enfield machine include people getting their fish and chips, shopping and even false teeth stuck behind the covers of malfunctioning cash-points, but they have not stopped the spread of the machines. There are now 18,000 in place across the country. Nearly two thirds of personal cash in Britain is withdrawn from them.

The devices have spawned the personal identification number (Pin) new kinds of crime and even a transatlantic love affair. Some machines, made by NCR in Dundee, had taped voice instructions spoken by a

women with soft Tayside tones. So enraptured was the customer of one American bank that he demanded to know her name and arranged to meet her.

Mr Shepherd-Barron, now 67, invented the first machine when he worked for De La Rue systems. It was operated by customers inserting cheque-style vouchers, which carried a punch hole code and were slotted into a drawer. The machine used light rays to match the code on the voucher with the one punched in by the customer. A packet of notes was then put into a second drawer, which the customer pulled out.

Despite the success of cash machines, they still remain a mystery to some. Yesterday Eric Jukes, 45, of Enfield, said that he had never touched one in his life, though he banked at the branch that installed the first machine. Mr Jukes said he was happy to use chocolate dispensing machines because, if they went wrong, "you only lose six pence. I suppose I should use one



Cash and carry: Sir Anthony Norman using the first machine 25 years ago. He was chairman of De La Rue, the firm that made the machine. Right, one of a series of raids earlier this year in which thieves used heavy machinery to break in and uproot cashpoints



once," he said. "I do not want on my epitaph, 'He never used a cash machine in his life.'"

□ Criminal imaginations have been fired by the machines as fraudsters look for ways to cash in on the easy money stored inside (Michael Horsnell writes).

Forklift trucks and bulldozers have proved on a number of occasions to be the most straightforward

means of relieving banks and building societies institutions of their money but, as systems have become more complex, so have the methods of the thieves.

Scotland Yard is investigating a nationwide fraud, centred on travelling groups of bona fide auctioneers, who visit specially hired hotel reception rooms, village halls and leisure centres, selling anything from electrical

goods to art. Security sub-contractors are hired, who ostensibly check on the authenticity of cheque and credit cards and the creditworthiness of their holders at the start of an auction.

Buyers are asked to disclose their Pins for verification by tapping them into portable machines. With the numbers and information from the cards, the criminals have been able to make bo-

gus cards with magnetic strips acceptable to cash machines. Hundreds of victims have lost up to £2,000 each since the racket first came to police attention two months ago. A Scotland Yard spokesman yesterday appealed to people never to disclose their Pins.

Card fraud in Britain is estimated to be worth £165 million a year. Banks admit to only £3 million involving

hole-in-the-wall machines. The banks maintain that it is impossible to manufacture an acceptable magnetic strip from information printed on receipts for cash withdrawals. Nevertheless, in the mid-1980s, a New York bank worker withdrew money after watching customers type in their Pins and picking up discarded receipts, before making cards to fool the machines.

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TS27A-92

Churches head for £8m debt

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Leeds has asked Roman Catholic churchgoers to give the equivalent of one hour's pay a week to stop the diocese sliding millions of pounds into debt.

The Right Rev David Konstant said that some people who could give more were putting only a few pence on the collection plate. Even £1 was only small change, he said.

"If we really want to support the work of the church, is it enough just to give a tip? Parishes could aim to double the collection, he said.

The diocese, which covers West Yorkshire and parts of North Yorkshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, could be £2 million in debt by March next year and £8 million in the red by 1996, the bishop said.

He has issued an appeal that will be read from pulpits or played over public address systems at services today and tomorrow. The bishop said that 15 per cent of the congregation gave about 85 per cent of contributions.

Of 175,000 Catholics in the diocese, about 57,000 attend mass regularly. The diocese has been plunged into debt by new churches, rising repair and maintenance costs, the recession and a £3 million reorganisation of Catholic schools in Leeds. Most of the diocese's money is spent on its 105 schools, which have a total of 33,000 pupils, but the bishop was loath to cut this budget.

The Catholic church has no central funding body equivalent to the Church Commissioners of the Church of England, who contribute to clergy salaries and pay clergy pensions. The typical salary of a Catholic priest is £3,440, met mostly by the parish.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Perfume fakers hunted

A counterfeiting gang believed to be making fake perfume is being sought by trading standards officers after part of its illegal operation was uncovered in Hereford and Worcester.

Police and trading officers yesterday found packaging and labels for fake Calvin Klein and Giorgio Armani with a retail value of over £150,000 in two cabins in Redditch.

Malcolm Adams, chief trading standards officer for the county, said that a search had begun for the gang's distillery.

Peak mill saved

Plans for a multi-million-pound timeshare development were rejected after a public enquiry, inspector ruled that conversion of historic Limon Mill in the Peak District national park would cause material harm to Miller's Dale.

Shots fired

Shots were fired at police pursuing three men who had held up a NatWest bank in Tottenham, north London. Later two men were helping police.

Care charges

Three former care workers were bailed yesterday by Sunderland magistrates on nine charges of causing unnecessary suffering to children six years ago at Witherwick House, a social services home.

Widow's award

Gina Gant, 32, of Netheravon, Wiltshire, the widow of a defence ministry policeman shot dead accidentally by a colleague in 1990, was awarded £315,000 in the High Court.

Island remembers the sailor saint

AFTER 1,400 years of obscurity the memory of St Moluag, one of Scotland's earliest Christian leaders, has been celebrated on the island he snatched from the grasp of St Columba.

Although few people have heard of Moluag, the Irish saint did much to spread the gospel in the western fringes of Scotland. But until this week, he had been consigned to a few half-forgotten references in ecclesiastical history books.

By chance, the Rev Donald Strachan, an Episcopalian minister in the diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, found the date of St Moluag's death, June 592, in an old prayer book. A commemorative service was held this week on the island of Lismore, in Loch Linnhe for St Moluag, who beat Columba to take over the island, where a cathedral was founded.

St Moluag arrived from Ireland intent on creating a Celtic monastery on Lismore which, unlike the surrounding area, was lush and green. Legend has it that, as he approached the

A chance find in an old prayer book has saved St Moluag from obscurity, writes Kerry Gill

island, another boat shot out from behind Eilean Dubh - the black isle. It was Columba. The two raced towards the island in their curraghs, boats made of bent wood and skins. Moluag chopped his little finger off with his axe and threw it on to the shingle, declaring that his blood had reached Lismore first. Columba withdrew and Moluag became the first Bishop of Argyll.

This week's service was held by the Right Rev George Henderson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, his successor. One person celebrating St Moluag's memory was Alastair Livingstone, Baron of Bachelu. The barony is an ecclesiastical title granted to the family by charter so that they would guard St Moluag's black-thorn staff, said to have miraculous powers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Perfume fakers hunted

Police are going to make it harder for perfume fakers to operate in the UK. The Home Office is considering a new law which would make it an offence to sell counterfeit goods in the UK. The law would also make it an offence to sell counterfeit goods in the UK. The law would also make it an offence to sell counterfeit goods in the UK.

Peak mill saw

The peak of the mill saw has been reached. The mill saw has reached its peak. The mill saw has reached its peak. The mill saw has reached its peak. The mill saw has reached its peak.

Shots fired

Shots were fired in the area. Shots were fired in the area. Shots were fired in the area. Shots were fired in the area. Shots were fired in the area.

Care charges

Charges for care have been increased. Charges for care have been increased. Charges for care have been increased. Charges for care have been increased. Charges for care have been increased.

Widow's award

A widow has been awarded a sum of money. A widow has been awarded a sum of money. A widow has been awarded a sum of money. A widow has been awarded a sum of money. A widow has been awarded a sum of money.

and remembers
the sailor saint

Major deliberates on top people's pay

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE tricky decision over top people's pay has been put off for at least another two weeks while John Major deliberates on whether to accept recommendations from the Top Salaries Review Body.

The review body report, which was delivered to Downing Street yesterday, is understood to recommend pay rises of up to 30 per cent for senior civil servants, judges and military personnel. The body is chaired by Sir David Nickson, chairman of the Clydesdale bank, and members include Sir Cecil Clothier, Louise Botting, the broadcaster and financial journalist, and Sir Peter Cazalet.

The government has already come under pressure from the Opposition and some Tory MPs not to accept such an "excessive" award. The prime minister will look at the report this weekend when he comes back from Lisbon and the figures will be assessed by Treasury ministers before it is submitted to the cabinet. Downing Street sources made clear that could not be achieved by the next meeting on Thursday. Mr

Major is expected to announce the size of the awards shortly before Parliament rises on July 16, preventing a lengthy dispute.

With ministers discouraging high public-sector pay awards in a drive to keep down inflation, any big increases within Whitehall would be extremely hard to justify. Several of the new Tory MPs who are keen to curb public spending have also privately said a big rise for top public servants would be untenable. Labour MPs have argued that if Mr Major



Botting: member of the salary review body

approves the rises he will undermine his tough stance on the economy.

Successive governments have agreed that review body recommendations should be accepted unless there are "compelling reasons". Previous reports this year have been accepted, although these awards were made before the general election. The prime minister will now have to decide whether he can take the political risk of doing the same with a review which covers 2,000 people, some earning more than £100,000 a year.

A 30 per cent rise would lift the salary of the highest-paid civil servant, Sir Robin Butler, secretary of the cabinet and head of the home civil service, from £102,900 to over £130,000.

This year's report is the first to compare top private and public-sector pay since 1985, when increases of up to 46 per cent provoked a political uproar. A hundred Conservatives either abstained or voted against the government, which, despite a three-line whip, achieved a majority of just 17.



Tarzan and the big cat: Michael Heseltine in the first 217mph XJ220 off the production line at Bloxham, Oxfordshire, yesterday

£400,000 Jaguar gives Heseltine taste of real power

MICHAEL Heseltine praised Jaguar's new £400,000 XJ220 yesterday as a car which showed that Britain "can produce the best". The President of the Board of Trade was watching the first of a limited build of 350 of the world's fastest production car leave the assembly line at an

Oxfordshire factory. After a spin behind the wheel of the car with a top speed of 217mph, his verdict was: "Very exciting. I have never driven a car with so much power before."

Asked what speed he achieved, Mr Heseltine replied: "Thirty miles

a 40 limit." He said that he would not be among the owners of the car because all models had been sold. Mr Heseltine, who bought his first second-hand Jaguar in 1956, said that the technology, aerodynamics and fuel efficiency of the XJ220 would find its way into ordinary

cars. JaguarSport, the manufacturer, would not name the buyers but said that about a hundred models were expected to remain in Britain.

The first ten hand-built two-seater vehicles with a 3.5-litre V6 engine will be delivered to customers in the next two weeks.



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Building Excitement

Gould criticises party's retreat

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Gould, a contender for the Labour leadership, last night accused the party of "retreating into its shell" because of its electoral defeat.

Speaking at a leadership rally in London, Mr Gould referred to a decision by the party's national executive on Wednesday to shelve the proposed one member one vote system for selecting parliamentary candidates.

"The events last Wednesday show that too many prefer the old style certainties to the new agenda we must now adopt," said Mr Gould, who is also standing for deputy leader. "Unless we are prepared to make changes in our policy and appeal we will not be able to excite the voters after 1996."

John Smith, favourite for the Labour leadership, gave his full backing to the one member one vote system and to reforming links with trade unions. Speaking at the rally, which had been organised by Tribune group, from the left, and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Smith said that the party would eventually adopt the system, which was postponed for a year after it was decided to include it in a full review of the party's relations with the unions.

"Neil Kinnock's achievements in modernising the Labour party have not been in vain," he said. "We will, I believe, adopt one member one vote for the selection of

candidates, change the system of electing the leadership, and modernise and democratise our relationship with affiliated trade unions."

"The party could not rely on 'one more heavy' to win in 1996 or 1997. But he was confident that Labour could and would win power at the next election."

Labour's values of freedom and fairness and of citizenship and community were far more relevant to the aspirations of the British people than were the dogmas of "laissez-faire" and privatisation that dominated the Conservative party. "At its most simple, I am asserting the primacy of community over markets," he said.

Margaret Beckett, also speaking during the rally in her bid for deputy leader, supported Mr Smith's philosophy of greater power for the community and individual citizens. The party had to take the lead on fundamental social issues such as poverty, education, the tax and benefit system and the financing of political parties.

Labour needed "a determined and united leadership team" to guide the party through changes necessary to the party's structure and its political programme. "Labour must become once again the party of radical ideas," she said.

John Prescott, the other deputy leadership contender, was not at the rally because of another engagement.

LSE fails to bid for county hall

BY ROBERT MORGAN
PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

MINISTERS are becoming increasingly impatient with the London School of Economics over its failure to put in a firm bid for county hall, the former headquarters of the Greater London Council. It was disclosed yesterday.

The university had hoped to buy the neo-classical building, which stands on the banks of the Thames opposite the Houses of Parliament. But Robin Squire, an environment minister, told the Commons that it was unlikely the LSE would be able to raise the money, even taking into account the cash raised from the sale of its existing properties.

He said that the London Residuary Body, which is charged with disposing of all former GLC property, was required by law to raise the maximum amount possible for the benefit of the London boroughs and their charge payers.

Mr Squire said yesterday that the LSE should present any new proposals to the London Residuary Body as soon as possible. The LSE had discussed the matter with environment department officials, but had not yet put firm proposals to the residuary body, he added.

Mr Squire denied press reports that the Japanese property developer Shirayama, which wants to convert the riverside building into a hotel, had withdrawn its offer.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Hedgerow survival backed

David Maclean, the environment and countryside minister, speaking during a Commons debate on the countryside, said yesterday that he was to launch a new scheme next month to encourage landowners to preserve their hedgerows.

The government intended to back a bill on the subject being sponsored by Peter Ainsworth, the new Tory member for East Surrey, scheduled for a second reading debate in January.

War secrets

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said that the government was considering opening the secret files on a second world war incident, in which charred bodies found on the beach at Bawdsey in Suffolk were said to be Germans killed in a raid on an RAF radar research station.

Victims helped

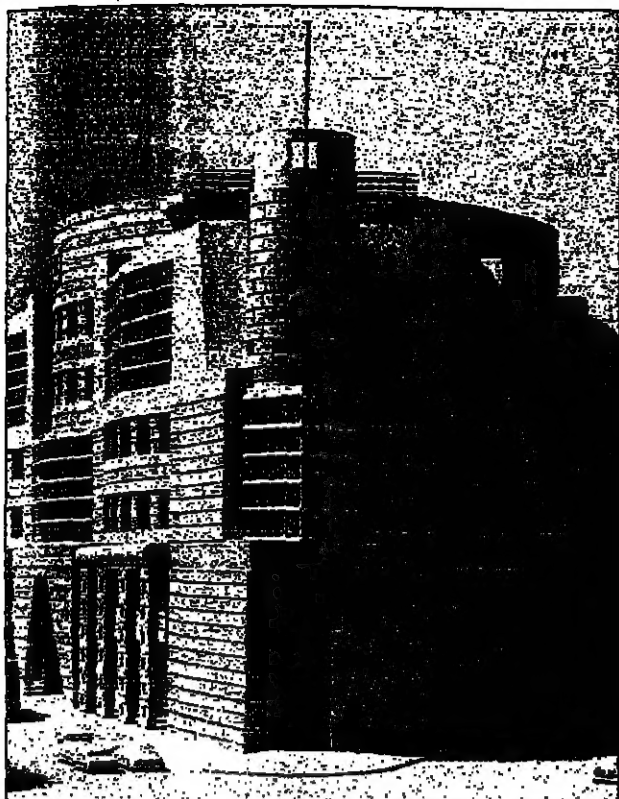
Twelve centres across the country that help victims of crime and family violence are to be given £1.8 million over the next three years, Michael Jack, a Home Office minister, announced in a Commons written reply.

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مركز المناسبات

Build not talk: the guiding maxim of Sir James Stirling, an architect revered by his peers



City battleground: the design for No 1 Poultry, above left, was widely criticised by those who thought that the Mappin & Webb building which still occupies the site was of superior quality



Wireless set finds a mixed reception

BY A STAFF REPORTER

NONE of Sir James's designs proved more controversial than his plans for the Mappin & Webb site opposite the Bank of England and the Mansion House in the City, dismissed by the Prince of Wales as resembling a 1930s wireless set.

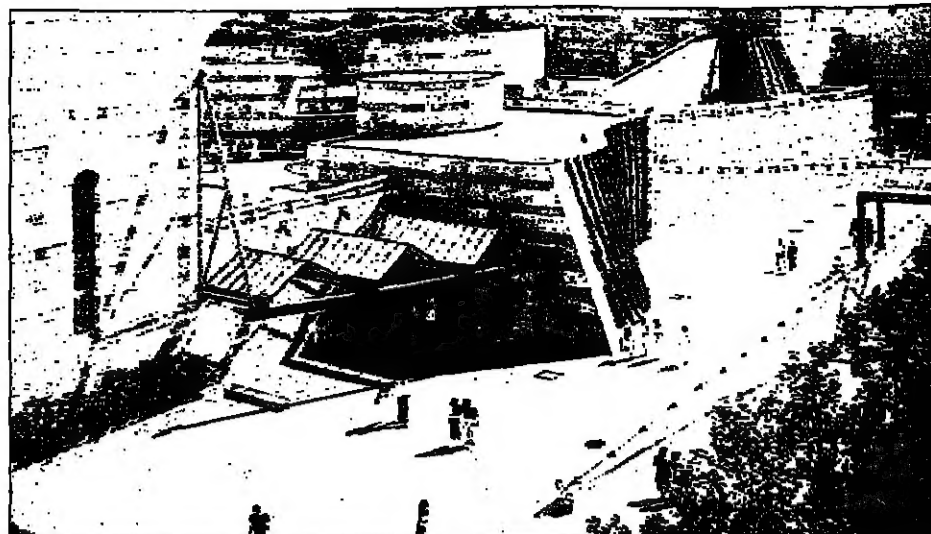
His designs, the subject of many planning meetings, public enquiries and appeals, will now be his final monument to British architecture. Lord Palumbo, his friend and supporter said last night, describing him as "a wise and cultured man".

There was a fierce battle over the proposals to demolish eight listed buildings in the heart of the City's conservation area. Lord Palumbo, owner through his companies of the one-acre site, commissioned a low post-modernist design from Sir James, after a tower by Mies van der Rohe was rejected.

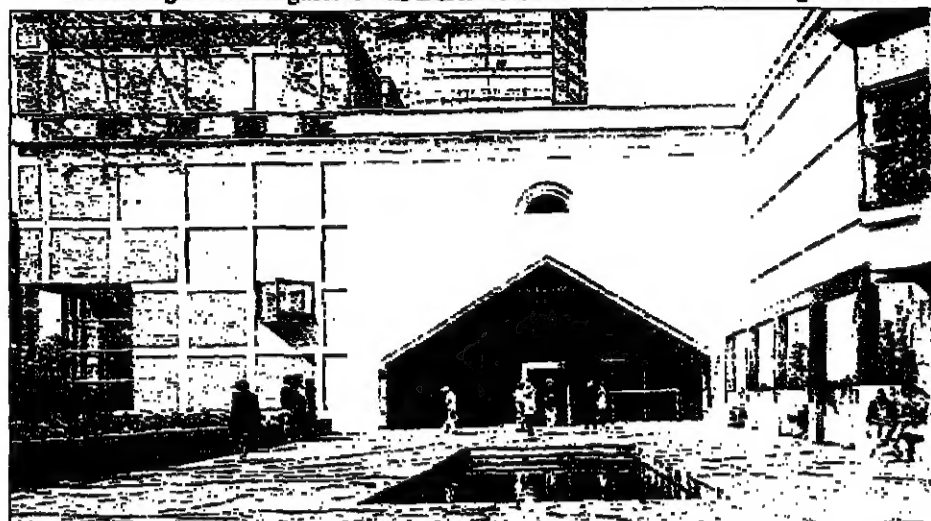
The City of London Corporation rejected the plans and a public enquiry was held in 1987. English Heritage, the Victorian Society, Save and other conservationists backed the corporation's fight to save the buildings. The Royal Fine Art Commission and the Royal Institute of British Architects backed the plans.

Environment department inspectors said that the new building "might be a masterpiece" and approved it. They failed, however, to give clear reasons for their departure from usual policies in favour of preserving listed buildings. Their decision was overturned in the Court of Appeal but reinstated by the House of Lords early last year.

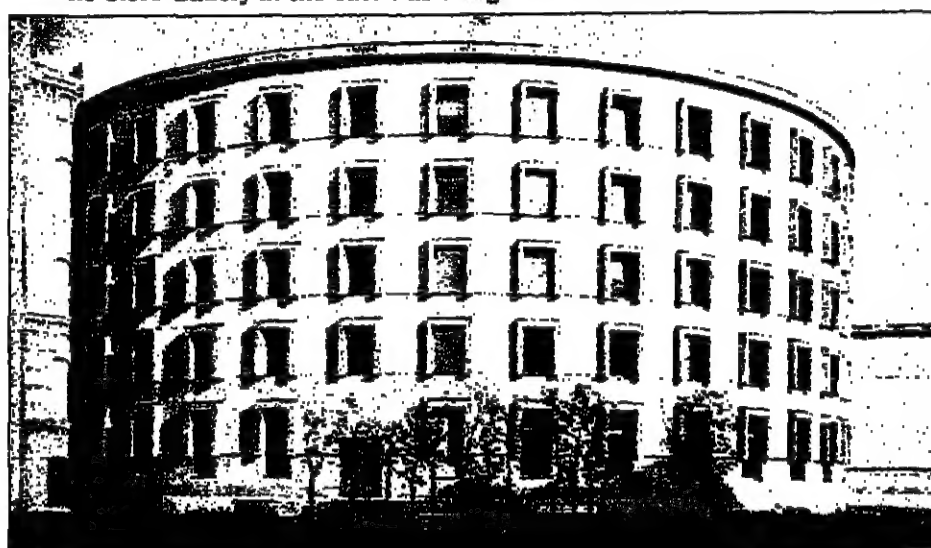
Though planning permission has been granted for the scheme, work cannot begin until Lord Palumbo has gained consent to close the roads through the site, another issue that could become the subject of a third public enquiry.



The Stuttgart Staatsgalerie was a critical success and attracted huge crowds



The Clore Gallery at the Tate was designed to house the Turner exhibition



The WZB science building in Berlin was completed in the late 1980s

Eclectic who inspired by design

BY MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE
CORRESPONDENT

SIR James Stirling was a king who had never claimed his crown. No British architect was more revered among his peers and he could have been, had he wished, the unquestioned leader of his profession. But from the early 1960s he adopted the motto of the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto: "Build not talk."

The two buildings that brought him world acclaim were the engineering faculty at Leicester University, regarded as the most forceful piece of 1960s modernism, and the Staatsgalerie at Stuttgart, icon of post-modernism.

Sir James was not a man to accept labels or isms and he was a genuine eclectic, admired for his great versatility. A deep man, he could be difficult and prickly, sharing qualities with Nicholas Hawkmoor, with whom he felt a strong spiritual affinity.

Sir James, one critic wrote, "saw Britain at the end of the 1950s declining into provincialism, a nation dotted with prim new towns".

But his creative fire proved a weakness and his practice tended to attract bright sparks more than workhorses. Many of his buildings had structural flaws that

greatly anguished their occupants. His model housing at Runcorn outside Liverpool was recently demolished while for many years the history faculty at Cambridge refused to display plaques commemorating the awards the building had won.

Few such criticisms were made of the Stuttgart gallery which from the start attracted huge attendances, more for its architecture than its contents. Here Sir James revealed himself as a brilliant handler of outdoor and indoor space and of colour, massing and materials.

The admiration he attracted was due in considerable part to the time he spent teaching in London, Yale and Düsseldorf but also to his surpassing talents as an architectural draughtsman. He was in the shortlist for many national and international competitions, repeatedly taking second or third place.

Yet the quality of these competition entries, as much

as his completed buildings, won him a reputation among architects and students perhaps equalled only by that of the Austrian Hans Hollein and the Japanese Arata Isozaki.

It was unquestionably the initial stages of design that appealed to him most. He once said: "Architects are in love with their buildings for maybe a year, maybe two years. After 20 years it's dead. It's like an old love affair. There's nothing dead."

Sir James's intellect as much as his large frame and girth earned him the nickname Big Jim Stirling. His death comes as an intense shock to the architectural profession as he was still at the height of his creative powers.

Although he was awarded the Riba gold medal before Sir Norman Foster or Sir Richard Rogers, his knight-hood came after theirs, only days before his death.

Obituary, page 17



Sir James: king who never claimed crown

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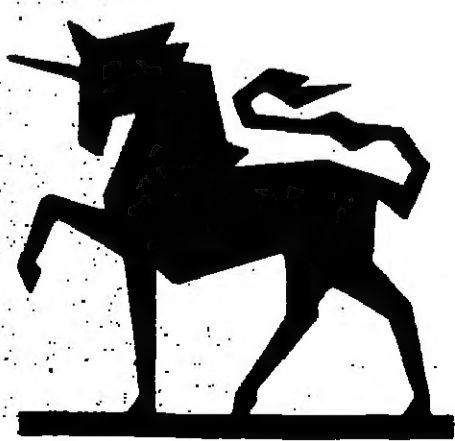
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Iran arms cover-up 'reached the top'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

OFFICIALS at the highest level of the Reagan administration could be charged this summer with trying to cover up the Iran-Contra scandal, Lawrence Walsh, the special prosecutor in the affair, has told Congress.

Mr Walsh did not name names, but he recently brought perjury charges against Caspar Weinberger and the only three officials above the former defence secretary at that time were President Reagan, George Bush, the vice-president, and George Schultz, the Secretary of State.

Mr Walsh's investigation is now believed to be focusing on a White House meeting on November 24, 1986, at which, he has hinted, Edwin Meese, the attorney-general, staged a contrived ritual designed to suggest Mr Reagan had not known of an illegal shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran in 1985.

Attending the meeting were Mr Reagan, Mr Bush, Mr Schultz, William Casey, the late CIA director, Donald Regan, White House chief of

staff, and John Poindexter, national security adviser. Mr Walsh asserts that several of those present had had "contrary information".

He acknowledged this week that he had offered to drop most charges against Mr Weinberger if he would tell the "rock-bottom truth" about the alleged cover-up. Mr Schultz was also told months ago that he was being investigated.

In a highly unusual report on the status of his five-year investigation, Mr Walsh said he had been thwarted in his attempts to prosecute the "basic operational crimes" committed during the scandal by claims that national security was at stake. He said that newly discovered documents had thrown up "new and disturbing evidence" that had led his enquiries in a new direction.

Those documents included personal notes of key officials, CIA cables and other records previously withheld, and there had been a "significant shift in our understanding of which administration officials

had knowledge of Iran-contra, who participated in its cover-up and which areas required far more scrutiny than we previously believed", Mr Walsh said.

He was trying to determine whether top officials "acting individually or in concert" had "sought to obstruct official enquiries into the Iran initiative... by withholding notes, documents and other information, by lying and by supplying a false account of the 1985 arms sales from Israeli stocks and their replenishment by the US".

The administration had deceived the public about its activities, but it was "a crime to mislead, deceive and lie to Congress when, in fulfilling its legitimate oversight role, the Congress seeks to learn whether administration officials are conducting the nation's business in accordance with the law".

Mr Walsh's investigation has so far cost \$31 million (£16.4 million) and is the butt of increasing Republican criticism. He said he expected it to be completed this summer.



Flowers for a fighter: a woman greeting a guerrilla, right, from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front in San Salvador. The rebel group is demobilising as part of the Salvadorean peace agreement

Egyptians held after bombing at Luxor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

EGYPT'S war against Muslim extremists has reached a new peak with the arrest of 500 suspected fundamentalists and the tightening of security around pharaonic sites after a bomb attack on the Karnak temple at Luxor.

The semi-official Al-Gom-houriyat reported yesterday that the Luxor bombing, during the spectacular son et lumière programme telling the story of ancient Thebes, was the first of its kind against a tourist site since the fundamentalists launched their campaign to introduce an Islamic state.

Al-Ahram, the Cairo daily, reported that two bombs had exploded on Wednesday night, and added that the police had also found petrol bombs and other explosive devices in ancient vases in the building's main hall.

The decision by the Muslim fanatics to switch their campaign to the country's antiquities has provoked grave concern in government circles, since Egypt's economy is heavily dependent on the tourist trade, which has picked up after the slump caused by the Gulf war. Be-



fore the attack, Luxor had been free of Muslim extremism. But less than 125 miles to the north, in the province of Assiut, 5,000 Egyptian police and troops equipped with armoured cars and armed Nile launches have all week been conducting their biggest swoop against the fundamentalists.

By yesterday, as the operation continued around an area where Coptic Christians and two policemen were murdered last weekend and 60 Christian-owned shops were destroyed, security sources said that at least 510 suspected members of Islamic gangs had been arrested.

Visitors to Upper Egypt said that tension was high, with several local curfews in force and armoured vehicles blocking entrances to villages believed to be Islamic strongholds. "The security forces seemed in a very determined mood," said a Cairo resident who returned from the area yesterday.

Ibrahim Nafie, Al-Ahram's editor and a close confidant of President Mubarak, wrote in a defiant front-page editorial: "We are not facing some aimless youths but organised, extensive underground forces. We have only one choice: to rip terrorism out by its roots and ensure the stability of the country for the next 20 to 30 years."

Adamant Arens bows out

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE normally impassive features of Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, were even more stony yesterday when he left the office of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, unwavering in his decision to quit politics.

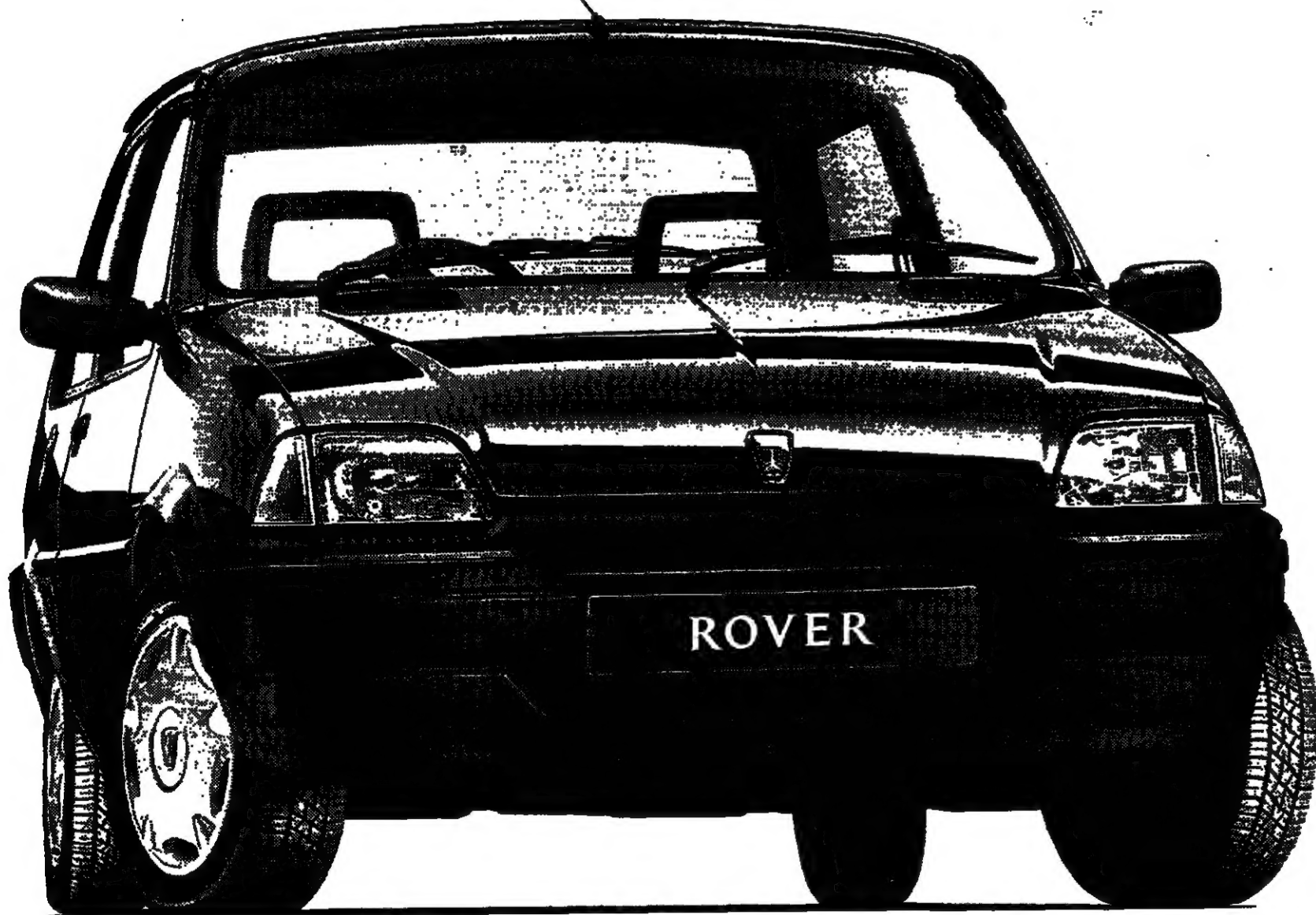
Although less than a week ago the American-trained academic with 18 years' experience in Israeli politics was regarded as the Likud party's chosen successor, Mr Arens had concluded that the problems facing the once pre-eminent force in Israel are beyond his leadership skills.

In the space of only a few months, the party alienated its working-class base of support through a mixture of incompetence and complacency, which drove many a loyal Likud voter into the arms of Labour. Although both main parties had 38 seats in the last Knesset, this time Likud lost six while Labour gained six.

"A part of the public does not see the slogan Greater Israel (including the occupied territories) as an adequate or sufficient response in grappling with the complexity of problems associated with Palestinians in the territories," Mr Arens said, in an admission that Likud's obsession with keeping the West Bank and Gaza Strip effectively cost it the election.

After counts completed last night of votes from Israeli soldiers, diplomats and prisoners, Yitzhak Rabin and the left have a 61-59 majority in the 120-seat parliament. Returns from civilian polling booths had given Mr Rabin and his allies a 62-58 advantage. Analysts said that the vote for the Arab Democratic Party tipped the majority to the left.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Egyptian held after bombing at Luxor

By Christopher W. Evans

A man was held after a bombing at Luxor, Egypt, on Saturday. The man was identified as a member of the Islamic Group, a militant organisation. The bombing took place in a crowded market area. The man was arrested by police and is being held in custody. The Islamic Group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The group has been active in Egypt since the 1980s. It has been involved in several bombings and assassinations. The Egyptian government has been trying to suppress the group. The group has vowed to continue its struggle for an Islamic state in Egypt.



Luxor is a city in southern Egypt, known for its ancient ruins. It is located on the west bank of the Nile River. The city is a major tourist destination. It is home to several ancient temples and tombs. The city has a long history. It was one of the most important cities in ancient Egypt. It was the capital of Egypt for many years. The city has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. It is now a modern city, but it still has many ancient ruins. The city is a mix of old and new. It is a beautiful city. It is a great place to visit. It is a great place to live. It is a great place to work. It is a great place to study. It is a great place to play. It is a great place to be.

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Gang kills 70 and rapes women on Somali refugee ship

FROM SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT
IN NAIROBI

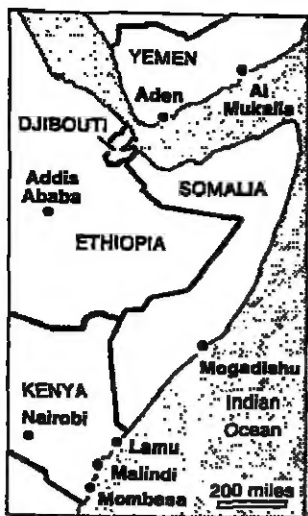
SCORES of women trapped on a ship carrying Somali refugees from their devastated capital, Mogadishu, to Yemen were raped in violence which left 70 dead at the hands of a gang on the same boat, Yemeni security officials said yesterday.

Quessam Muebel Quessam, the security officer in charge of the port of Aden, said yesterday that many of those killed were women and children. The victims were among an estimated 149 refugees who died either on board the ship, the *Gob Wein*, or while trying to swim to shore after its Chinese crew were forced at gunpoint to beach the vessel off the coast of Yemen.

The ship was refused permission to dock at the nearby port of al-Mukalla this month and had wandered the Gulf of Aden for 16 days with dwindling supplies of food and water before being hijacked by armed passengers. United Nations officials said yesterday that they thought the figure of 149 dead on the ship, carrying more than 3,400 Somalis, was "very, very conservative".

Yemen yesterday agreed to allow 700 of the refugees to disembark, said a spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She said that the refugees were packed like sardines with no sanitation. They were suffering from skin diseases, and children in particular were suffering from diarrhoea in temperatures of 50°C in the shade. Forty Somalis have been arrested by Yemeni authorities investigating the atrocities.

So far the Yemeni authorities have admitted 50,000 Somali refugees but thousands more are already heading across the Gulf of Aden as there is no prospect of a lasting peace or effective relief assistance to bring succour to



the five million people estimated to be near death from starvation in Somalia. At least 200 people, mostly children, die every day in Mogadishu where bandits recently looted a plane-load of food for children and last week attempted to steal the entire contents of a ship bringing in 5,000 tonnes of grain for famine victims.

But among the handful of journalists and aid workers who have been in and out of Somalia since the latest civil war started in Mogadishu on November 17, there was little surprise at the news of the rapes and killings on the *Gob Wein*. An estimated 100 people are treated for gunshot wounds in Mogadishu every day, victims of violent robberies or minor disputes.

In a country with no system of law and order, or any other form of administration, rape is so commonplace it is merely considered a hazard of being female. "I think that the boat people disaster is, ironically, good news for Somalia. It will get it into the media and perhaps the world might try to stop the worst holocaust since the second world war," said one senior aid official.

Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN special envoy to Somalia, said that the situation there was the "worst I have ever

seen, and I was in Biafra". But he, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, are frustrated at the slow reaction of the international community to the disaster in Somalia. A plan to send 500 troops to protect aid workers and set up a guns-for-food programme in the country has been stalled since December.

Three countries, including Pakistan, have offered to supply troops for the force but despite fierce lobbying of rich Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UN has been unable to raise the \$23 million (\$12 million) needed to pay for such a force.

Somali boat people are a common sight on the Kenyan coast where an estimated 1,000 arrive in Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu every day. Last week, fighting in southern Somalia spilled into the northern Lamu district and hundreds of Somalis were disarmed by Kenyan soldiers. Last year 127 boat people died when their dhow sank on a reef off Malindi after Kenyan officials refused to allow it into the harbour.

Meanwhile, Christiane Berthiaume, a spokeswoman for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said another boat with up to 700 Somalis was blocked in Aden port. The Yemeni authorities were refusing to let them disembark, and at least 15 people on board, mainly women and children, had died, she said.

Doctors from Médecins sans Frontières, the French-based charity, had already detected six cases of cholera among the refugees and the Yemeni authorities, anxious to prevent another tragedy, have been giving food and water to the 400-600 refugees on the ship currently docked in Aden harbour, according to UN officials.

A third boat carrying some 2,000 Somalis fleeing the civil war was across the Gulf of Aden and was expected to arrive at the weekend.

Witness links police to massacre

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

AN APPARENT direct link between the South African police and last week's massacre at Boipatong, in which more than 40 civilians were killed, was yesterday revealed in evidence to the commission enquiring into the current violence.

Ace Mngomezulu told the commission, under Justice Richard Goldstone, that he had spoken to a former member of the Koevoet ("Crowbar") force who is based, with other former members of the force, at the Greenside colliery in the eastern Transvaal. The Koevoet unit used to be part of the police counter-insurgency operation in Namibia. The former members living in the hostel are now employed by the South African police force.

Mr Mngomezulu said he had been told by his friend that he and a party of the other former members of the unit based at the colliery had gone to Boipatong on June 17, the night of the slaughter. The owners of the mine have admitted that the former Koevoet members are housed in a hostel leased by the South African police.

Mr Mngomezulu, a security guard at the colliery, said he had befriended the former Koevoet member, who had told him that he did not take part in any shooting but looked after the minibuses in which the former Koevoet members had travelled.

His friend said he had been threatened with death because he had not taken part in the shootings, and had asked him to inform officials of the National Union of Mineworkers and of the African National Congress about the killings.

The Goldstone commission was tipped off by the ANC about the presence of the unit of former Koevoet members, and officers of the commission raided the mine hostel on Wednesday. They discovered 44 former members of the



Pastor's grief: Archbishop Desmond Tutu mourning the dead of Boipatong at a service in St George's Anglican cathedral, Cape Town

unit, mostly Namibians or Angolans but all with South African papers, and also found a case of rifles in the quarters of the two white officers commanding them.

Relatives of the victims of the Boipatong massacre have insisted from the start that the police were involved in the killings, and have spoken of mysterious white men being present. Although the evidence to the commission is hearsay, it is the first outside support for their allegations.

Richard Haringh, counsel for the law and order ministry at the commission hearing, conceded that the men were former members of the Koevoet force, and that they were employees of the South African

police, although not actually policemen. He denied that they had been involved in any kind of violence at Boipatong, and said they were employed to combat such crimes as stock theft and theft of telephone cables.

Another curiosity about the story is that Colonel Henk Heisterling, a senior police officer attached to the Goldstone commission and in charge of the raid on the mine, was himself at one time a member of the Koevoet force and disqualified himself from taking further part in the raid once he discovered who the men were.

General Johan van der Merwe, the commissioner of police, later decried the use of

the commission for what he said was anti-police propaganda. He said that police investigations had produced no evidence of Koevoet involvement in the massacre.

The South African government has announced that Monday, the day of the funerals of the Boipatong victims, will be a holiday for employees of the government, and President de Klerk has urged private businesses also to give their workforces the day off. This is standard procedure in some Third World countries when the opposition calls for a day of action, as the ANC and its allies have, but it is said to be the first time that such a tactic has been used in South Africa.

Democrats make Bush wedding guest list

THERE will be more Democrat than Republican friends of President Bush at the second wedding of his daughter Dorothy LeBlond to Bobby Koch, a former top aide to Richard Gephardt, Democratic House majority leader, this weekend at Camp David. Those not on the guest list include Vice-President Dan Quayle and James Baker, the Secretary of State.

Fidel Ramos, the Philippines president-elect, has invited Imelda Marcos to his inauguration on Tuesday but insisted he has made no deals with her. He also appointed Roberto Romulo, ambassador to the European Community, as his foreign secretary. Mr Romulo is the son of the late Carlos Romulo, who was foreign secretary for nearly 20 years.

Mstislav Rostropovich, 65, the music director of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra, is to undergo surgery to remove a bone chip from his heel, forcing him to cancel plans for a concert that he was to have led jointly with the guest conductor Henry Mancini.

Madonna, below, arriving at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York for the opening of the film *A League of Their Own*, in which she stars with Tom Hanks.



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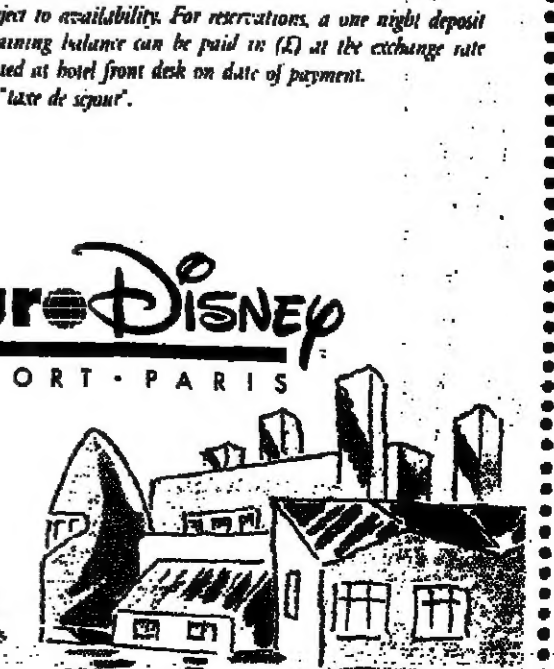
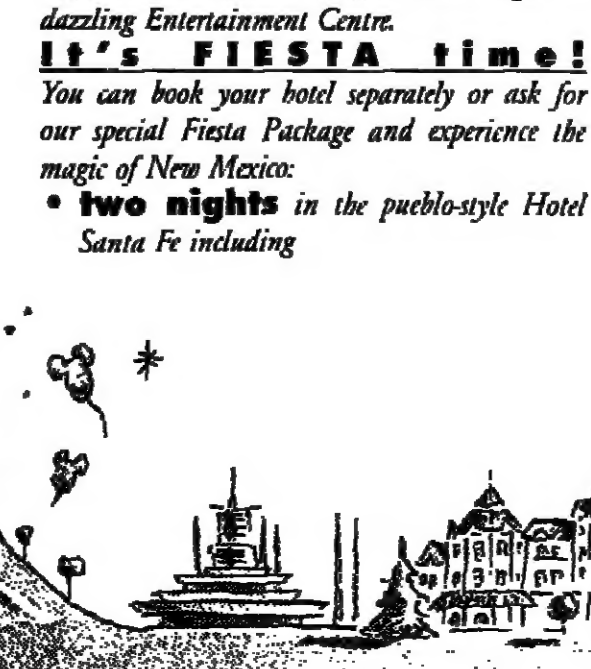
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Euro Disney
RESORT - PARIS





FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

The Brarian move mirrors one made by Baden-Württemberg in 1975, when the court refused to accept a law that would have allowed abortion "in cases of general predicament". The court said this contravened Article 2 of the Basic Law which guarantees "everyone shall have the

However, the central statistical office says that anything between two and four times as many abortions are performed in the western part of the country as are reported to them, while clinics in The Netherlands and Britain have had regular custom from German women.

One part of the legislation also aims at making sure that pre-school places are available for all children by 1996 so that women are not put under such pressure to make a choice between a career and children. These clauses were inserted to win backing from the liberal Free Democrats as well as from the 30 Christian Democrats, led by Rita Süßmuth, the Bundestag president.

However, most Christian Democrats and the Bavarian Christian Social Union are still opposed to the whole concept of abortion and the Catholic church is determined to use its influence to try to overturn the new law.

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

Gaggles of uncomprehending children wandered among queues of stationary cars and caravans as 200 tractors manoeuvred cavalry-style across the roads and fields around the theme park at Marnes-la-Vallée, east of the capital. "We chose Euro Disneyland because it is a symbol. It is built on agricultural land. It also symbolises America. Without American pressure, the reform of the European agricultural policy could have been different," Louis Colas, of the mainstream farmers' union, told

Another spokesman railed at what he said was the American plot to ensnare Europe. Disneyland was the obvious place to make the point while America's puppet leaders in Europe were obeying American orders to throw French farmers out of world markets, he said.

Another tractor warrior said: "The other day we blocked a motorway causing a 25 km (16-mile) traffic jam and the news did not even mention us." After the lunch-time news broadcasts, the tractors dispersed, allowing the holiday-makers, mainly tourists from other European countries, to enter the grounds with the train-borne visitors who had not been blocked by the farmers. A Dutch mother leaning out of her mobile home as they drove away said: "This morning was for Disney and now we cannot get in. Our little girl is heartbroken."

In a separate protest, 60 farmers overran the grounds of Jacques Delors' country home near Auxerre, southeast of Paris, spraying the area with defoliants.

Photograph, page 1
Editorial, page 15

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN TALLINN

The first question, asking for approval of the draft constitution drawn up by a national assembly, is expected to pass overwhelmingly since all the Estonian parties support it. This constitution provides for a parliamentary government, with parliament elected by proportional representation.

The position of the prime minister will be strengthened and he will be given full powers to form his cabinet. Parliament will retain the right to pass a vote of no confidence in the government as well as in individual ministers. The president will be elected by parliament and will have mainly symbolic functions.

The second question in tomorrow's referendum asks whether resident non-citizens (in other words Russians) who

applied for citizenship before June 5 should be allowed to vote in the elections. The numbers involved are small: only a few thousand of the almost 600,000 Russian speakers in Estonia. However, the referendum is being taken as an indicator of whether in the long run most Estonians are prepared to give citizenship to most Russians, or whether they mean to exclude as many of them as possible. Right-wing forces have been demanding that non-citizens should be denied

The Russian problem was highlighted this week by the decision of the Russian coordinating committee, made up of municipal, political and trade union leaders, to break off talks with representatives of the Estonian supreme council.

The film is described by the company as "the story of a dramatic conflict of a global personality — the story of her transformation from victim to victor". Shooting will probably be on location in Britain and Martin Poll, the producer, said yesterday: "The final episode will be written just before shooting begins. So much of the story

New Yorkers recently have been tying themselves in knots pretending that the royal marriage troubles are of no interest to them, while talking about little else. *Diana: Her True Story* has sold more than half a million copies and bidding for the film rights is said to have been intense.

A share of the profits made from what television critics say will be the most

On the opposite coast, after the truce between rival street gangs during the Los Angeles riots, gang leaders have decided to carry out a full-scale business merger, capitalising on the wave of sympathy they received from local people after their temporary decision to stop slaughtering each other.

A business plan uniting the black Crips and Bloods gangs, which for the past few years have tended to make war with each other, anticipates a turnover of £470,000 in the first year from jobs such as washing car windows at traffic lights. Los Angeles residents say the business is sure to be a success because few motoring

While the poverty-stricken black gangs are turning to capitalism, some extremely well heeled white youths are embracing gang warfare. Sixty teenagers in the exclusive suburb of Malibu, where the most dangerous street altercation is likely to be between Madonna and Warren Beatty, have formed a new gang: M.I.O., which stands for Malibu Locals Only and is dedicated to beating up surfers from the California valleys who stray on to their beach. The gang has achieved only moderate success in defending its perfect, sequestered turf.

A CHARGE WILL BE TAKEN OVER AN APPROPRIATE LIFE POLICY AND THE PROCEEDS FOR FULL WRITTEN DETAILS OF MIDLAND CREDIT FACILITIES TELEPHONE 0743 528788. *HATE APPLIES TO FIVE YEAR FIXED OPTION WHERE ENDORSEMENT COVER FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE MORTGAGE IS ARRANGED THROUGH MIDLAND LIFE LIMITED AND LIFE LIMITED IS WEARIED IN THE COURSE OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS BY THE SIB MIDLAND MORTGAGE ENDORSEMENT PLAN IS A UNIT LINKED POLICY AND SINCE THE VALUE OF UNITS CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE INVESTOR MUST BE AWARE OF THE ORIGINAL INVESTMENT MIDLAND BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF M&G AND IS THE SELLING AGENT OF MIDLAND LIFE AA 10 National Review Feb 1992

Community braced for long battle over finance

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY IN LISBON

A LONG struggle over the European Community budget is inevitable during the British presidency after national leaders, as predicted, produced no agreement on figures in Lisbon yesterday.

John Major rejected the European Commission's "Delors II" package of proposals for future financing.

BUDGET DEBATE

telling the other heads of government that he saw no need for an increase in the "own-resources" limit.

Mr Major emphasised that he accepted the Maastricht treaty commitment to a cohesion fund to increase spending in the poorer countries of Greece, Portugal, Spain and the Irish Republic to help them to meet the convergence criteria needed before contemplation of a single currency. But he warned his fellow leaders pointedly in the context of the Danish referendum that it was taxpayers' money they were spending. The cohesion funds, he said, could come from present under-spending and cuts in the agriculture budget.

Jacques Delors has said that if member states block

his plan to increase the payments limit from 1.2 per cent of the Community gross national product to 1.37 per cent, then the EC will be able to afford only its reformed common agricultural policy and the cohesion fund. Even at that level, he said yesterday, the EC would be spending only 3 per cent of member states' money.

Mr Major said the Commission's proposals were difficult to reconcile with the required "overall prudence" in spending. There was no need to increase the spending limit because the EC was not spending up to the existing limit.

The British prime minister also reminded his colleagues that admission of the Efta applicants for membership would increase the resources available to the EC by a further 3 billion ecu (£2.1 billion). In a direct clash with M Delors, who wants a £2.5 billion increase in subsidies to European industry to help it to compete with Japan, Mr Major said he was concerned about such proposals. They were incompatible with the Maastricht treaty aims and picking winners was "not a sensible way of doing things".

Mr Major also said that better progress would have been made on the budget if finance ministers had been present, urging their attendance for such discussions in future. He called for agricultural spending to be scaled down further and for guidelines on such spending to be given added precision.

The European council agreed yesterday on the general "orientation" of future spending, but settled no precise figures. That will become one of the tasks of the British presidency before the Edinburgh summit in December.

Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister, and his officials will be in regular contact with the whips office at the House of Commons. The whips will be told the main items being discussed, the nature of the debate and any progress made.

The whips in turn will keep ministers and certain MPs informed about events. These would include Sir Peter Horden, the new chairman of the Conservative European affairs committee.

Downing Street sources said the exchange of information would not be as frantic as during the Maastricht summit because no big changes to the treaty are expected to be announced. In addition, the Maastricht meeting last December took place not at the weekend but during the week, when MPs would have been at the Commons. Then the whips gave hourly reports to MPs about the treaty's progress. Cabinet ministers and their officials were on all-night alert to take in the latest news from Maastricht.

Treaty targeted

Lille: Two former French ministers, Philippe Seguin and Charles Pasqua of the neo-gaullist RPR, formally launched a campaign for a "no" vote in the planned referendum on the Maastricht treaty. (Reuters)

Rail reprimand

Brussels: The European Commission has accused Belgian railway chiefs of "cowardly claims" that it was behind a threat to Inter-Rail tickets used by thousands of young backpackers to tour Europe cheaply. (Reuters)

Polluter named

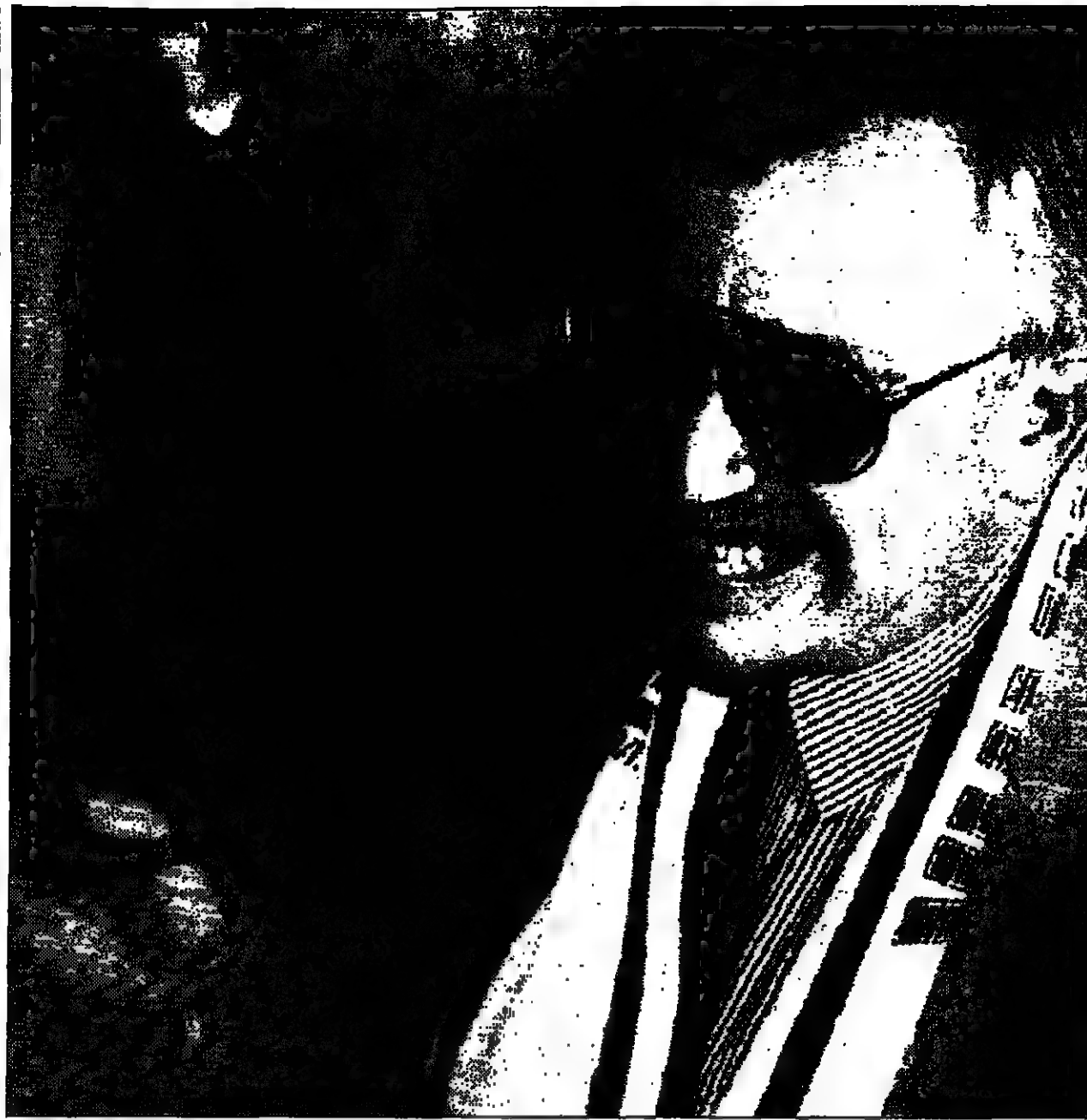
Amsterdam: Despite a green reputation, The Netherlands is the most polluted country in western Europe while Norway and Switzerland share the title of the cleanest, Dutch researchers at Groningen University said. (Reuters)

Italy upset

Rome: Italy has accused its EC partners of offering insufficient protection to pregnant women by failing to guarantee them the right to receive 80 per cent of their salary during the time they were off work. (Reuters)

Veto lifted

Istanbul: Greece has lifted its veto on Turkey getting its share of a European Community aid package for Mediterranean nations. Community and Turkish diplomats said here. The veto had delayed the aid for two years. (Reuters)



Game for a laugh: Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, arriving at yesterday's EC summit in Lisbon wearing a red and white scarf to show his support for his country's team in last night's European Championship football final in Gothenburg. Asked who would win, he linked Denmark's difficulties over the Maastricht treaty, rejected by voters in a referendum, with the game's outcome. "If we can't join them, we'll beat them," he said with a grin. He and Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, said they might take a pocket television into the talks to watch their team, the underdogs, take on the favourites.

Leaders urged to unify Europe

In a marked change of view, Brussels now favours a larger Community, George Brock writes from Lisbon

A RALLYING call for the expansion of the European Community came yesterday from the European Commission, which said in a report to the Community leaders at their summit in Lisbon that the EC had never been a "closed circle" and must play its part in unifying a continent no longer divided by the Iron Curtain.

The Commission has traditionally been suspicious that Britain and some other mem-

bers want to enlarge the Community quickly to dilute federalism. But the final version of the report from the 17 commissioners on the implications of opening negotiations with Scandinavian and alpine countries minimised reservations about accepting new states in the mid-1990s. "Enlargement is a challenge which the Community cannot duck," it says.

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, last night

supported the majority of EC governments which want membership talks with European Free Trade Association (Efta) nations to be delayed until the Maastricht treaty has been ratified by at least 11 and ideally by all 12 of the present members.

The cautious text of yesterday's document, presented by Frans Andriessen, the external affairs commissioner, who is Dutch, bore the marks of sharp disagreements between him and M Delors, who has been under sustained fire over his centralist ambitions since Danish voters rejected the Maastricht treaty, largely because fears of fresh changes to the EC's constitution swayed them against it. M Delors is now eager to emphasise the EC's new concern not to intrude on the prerogatives of national

governments and to suppress any suggestion that the accession of new EC members will automatically trigger a new phase of tighter integration.

But Mr Andriessen has stuck to his more radical belief that the EC cannot even take on small, well-qualified states such as Austria and Sweden without reorganising its procedures. M Delors and a majority of commissioners removed this suggestion from the version of their support presented to the prime ministers yesterday. Sources have made clear that both M Delors and Mr Andriessen support both the expansion of majority voting and the lowering of the threshold of votes needed to win a decision. Neither proposal was mentioned yesterday.

The report concludes that the inclusion of Austria, Fin-

land, Switzerland and Sweden "should not pose major problems" but gives a warning that these neutral states will have to sign up for the tortuous formula on future EC defence policy written into the Maastricht treaty. The Community, the commissioners say, should "remove all ambiguity or misunderstanding on this point".

At the moment, they say, neutral states should "give specific and binding assurances on their political commitment and capacity to fulfil legal obligations". The Maastricht treaty tightens the co-ordination of national foreign policies and ultimately the development of "a common defence".

Yesterday's report also gives some insights into the Commission's hurried elaboration of what devolving some of the EC's central powers to lower levels might mean. The document makes clear that the Community must promote this doctrine of subsidiarity so that it is not prevented from exercising "leadership on the questions of vital importance".

A larger EC would need a "less vast and detailed" legislative programme, a clearer distinction between which bodies were responsible for decisions and which look after their implementation, and a more balanced distribution of work between Brussels, national governments and regions. This last idea incorporates a lurking threat to any British government which wants to recover powers from Brussels but which may not necessarily want to pass them on to local authorities.

The report says little in detail about wider enlargement to include the new democracies but does suggest that the EC's political links with Eastern Europe should be strengthened. It recommends a "European political area" for closer consultation between West and East.

Jubilant Danes make their goal summer revelry

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

As their political leaders attended the European Community summit in Lisbon, jolly Danes back home prepared to stage the greatest festivity in their little country's history since its liberation from the Nazi occupation of the second world war by General Montgomery in 1945: the celebration of its participation in the finals of the European soccer championships in Gothenburg against Germany.

When the Danish soccer team won its surprise victory over the Dutch champions in the semi-finals earlier this week, normally reserved Copenhageners went amok. More than 50,000 jubilant Danes took to the streets, waving flags and brandishing banners. Close on three million of Denmark's five-million population followed the match, beating all television viewing records and last night's David and Goliath encounter with the German world champions looked like bringing the country to another total standstill. Denmark's halcyon days started in May, when Bille August, a leading Danish film director, unexpectedly won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival for his film *The Best Intentions*, an account of the early life of the austere parents of Ingmar Bergman, the renowned Swedish film maker.

Then against all pollster predictions, Denmark voted defiantly against ratifying the Maastricht treaty on closer European political union in early June.

Keen travellers and good linguists as many Danes are, they still love to be hyggelig. Being hyggelig means chatting cosily with friends over coffee and cake or passing an evening in a snug bar. "Vi hygger os" (we make ourselves comfortable) is often an item on the agenda in Denmark, a sym-

bol of the way Danes like to see their country, "small and cosy".

Where else but in this fairy land would postmen don red jackets and Father Christmas hat for Yuletide deliveries, or tiny holiday homes boast all flagpoles flying the red-and-white national flag in birthdays and national holidays?

Visions of a United States of Europe fall on stony ground in Lutheran Denmark, whose people are pragmatic down to earth in the extreme. "It's a flat country surrounded by flattish seas, one long-term foreign resident says. "Danes are farmers, fishermen and businessmen, and there's not much to be mystical about this."

The present upsurge of nationalism is even changing Denmark's traditionally negative stance on militarism. Long a pacifist, reluctant member of Nato, often criticised by its Western allies in cold war times for contributing only 2 per cent of GNP to military expenditure, Danes are now queuing up to join the country's 40,000-strong army, navy and air force, with four times the number of volunteers it takes applying to be national servicemen. Denmark is also enjoying its hottest summer in memory.

Regardless of the result against the Germans last night, Danes seemed set to continue their apparently endless midsummer revelries with a massive welcome feast planned in Copenhagen's Town Hall Square for the returning squad today.

Deeply rooted in the Danish soul is what the Danes call the *jantelaw* - the small-country rule that those who put on airs must be cut down to size, a quirk in the country's national character which has received ample nourishment this month.

LISBON NOTEBOOK by George Brock

Lamont orders mint to ignore the eu

JUST as Britain looks well placed to land a prized European catch, the Euro-sceptical Chancellor of the Exchequer steps in to annoy Britain's partners.

London now appears to be within striking distance of being named as the site of the "operating arm" of the European central bank which will run any single currency in the next century. But a stern Norman Lamont has forbidden the Royal Mint to produce a ceremonial coin to mark the British EC presidency that starts next week.

Each presidency normally mints an ecu during its six months in the EC chair. During Britain's turn from July to December, the mint will issue a special 50p piece, but no ecu. Officials would murmur only that Mr Lamont's reluctance to follow tradition was "political".

Until the closing phase of last year's Maastricht treaty talks induced a diplomatic discretion, Mr Lamont did not bother to hide his view that monetary union was a pipe dream unlikely ever to be realised.

Just as the newly reappointed Jacques Delors gears up to breathe some life into the horribly slippery idea of "subsidiarity", the Italian government has galloped to the rescue. Giuliano Amato, who has the thankless job of assembling the latest Italian governing coalition, has warned Brussels that he would like to name Carlo Ripa di Meana as his environment minister.

Signor Ripa di Meana, a courteous but anarchic Italian aristocrat, and M Delors are not friends. They are temperamental opposites, and divided over policy into the bargain.

Signor Ripa di Meana offended his austere Roman Catholic boss when they both starred in Brussels seven years ago by giving an explicitly detailed interview to an Italian magazine about his sexual preference for older women. M Delors was not amused.

More recently, he has been infuriated by Signor Ripa di Meana's habit of getting the EC Commission into hot wat-

er with national governments by aggressive application of EC "eco-rules" in drinking water, air pollution and the environmental impact of schemes such as Britain's planned M3 bypass at Twyford Down.

At second look, Signor Ripa di Meana's likely departure for Rome may not be so comforting for M Delors. Among the leading candidates to replace "Ripa" is Gianni De Michelis, the self-promoting Italian foreign minister. Signor De Michelis may not be *quid* the man Delors is seeking to make the new, non-intrusive, low-profile EC Commissioner.

President Mitterrand of France almost failed to arrive last at yesterday's start of the meeting of the 11 European Community leaders.

But a last-minute detour by his motorcade left Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime min-



Mitterrand won the race to be last

ister, slip past him to enter the summit's conference site and save the day for protocol. As president, Mitterrand is the only EC head of state present. Protocol requires that the other 11 leaders - more heads of government - should arrive before he does.

Mitterrand's *monnaie* was about to swing into the grounds of the summit conference hall yesterday when someone realised Señor Gonzalez was behind the French president.



Delors: Major rejects his cash plans

48-hour limit affects UK most

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

EUROPE'S WORKING TIMES

	Max working week in hours (excl overtime)	Min holiday
UK	none	none
Belgium	42	4 weeks
Denmark	42	30 days
France	39	30 days
Germany	48	18 days
Greece	48	4 weeks
Ireland	48	3 weeks
Italy	48	none
Luxembourg	48	25 days
Holland	48	4 weeks
Portugal	48	21 days
Office workers	42	21 days
Spain	40	30 days

Sources: Industrial Relations Services

ployers to give their workers a minimum number of days paid leave a year. In Ireland, this falls one week short of the four-week minimum proposed by the EC legislation.

For employers in five EC member states, the 48-hour working week will ostensibly mean no change from the

status quo, according to figures from the Industrial Relations Services, an independent research organisation. They already have that maximum. In Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain and France, in legislative terms - employees will find their current working week extended.

They do not integrate well in Belgium and hardly have any social life here except with other Eurocrats." The official said that his previous secretary, who was otherwise fit, immediately developed a backache whenever she set eyes on the Commission's headquar-

Official — it's a mad, mad, mad, mad world

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS

While European Community leaders in Lisbon are trying to figure out how to trim the wings of the Brussels bureaucracy, a report released in Brussels reveals that the Commission is driving its employees mad.

According to the report, nearly 40 per cent of former EC employees who are claiming invalidity pensions have had to retire because of psychological or psychiatric reasons. The report says that there are nearly 2,000 former EC employees who had to give up their jobs with the European institutions for health reasons and are claiming invalidity pensions. The most common complaint, affecting 37.5 per cent, is listed as psychological and psychiatric diseases. That ranks well above

the runner-up, rheumatism and related diseases, which caused 26 per cent to retire, and cardiovascular diseases, which affected 14 per cent.

One commission official, who asked not to be named, said he was not the least bit surprised by the findings, and always suspected he was working in a madhouse. "It is the constant pressure we are under," another official said. "Just look at how they're always poking fun at us in the British press."

Another official believes the psychological problems are brought about because of the high level of stress associated with working in Brussels. "Most people are working far away from their homes, in a foreign country and are forced to speak a foreign language at work.

They do not integrate well in Belgium and hardly have any social life here except with other Eurocrats." The official said that his previous secretary, who was otherwise fit, immediately developed a backache whenever she set eyes on the Commission's headquar-

ter. "She did not have to walk into the building. Driving past would do it. This was clearly psychological."

One official believes that many come to Brussels and get trapped in the job. "They might not like the work, but the salaries are so high - the average secretary earns £23,000 a year tax-free and administrators earn around £65,000 - that they just cannot bring themselves to quit."

The commission's report fails to say which of the 12 nationalities working in the EC institutions are most infected by mad Euro-disease. The British civil service says that, from its experience, it definitely is not British nationals who are pushing up the figures.

According to the latest



ous secretary, who was otherwise fit, immediately developed a backache whenever she set eyes on the Commission's headquar-

THE TIMES SAT
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Move to shore up the rouble

Wine broken

Case granted

US aid cut

Turkey decides

Europeans v

Bosnian c

US sees need for force to free Sarajevo

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Bush administration has privately abandoned hope of a ceasefire ever holding in what used to be Yugoslavia and now accepts that Sarajevo will only be relieved through multilateral military intervention organised by America.

President Bush yesterday summoned Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, James Baker, the Secretary of State, and other top aides to the White House to discuss the worsening situation in Bosnia. However, sources said they believed military action to protect relief efforts was some way off and the administration was still grappling with problems about how to

limit any such involvement. Mr Baker said before the meeting that existing United Nations resolutions called for the provision of humanitarian aid to Bosnia only after a ceasefire had come into effect. Officials said the administration was consulting intensively with allies and expected the next move to be a UN Security Council resolution authorising the use of force. This is a significant turnaround for an administration that only a month ago was resolutely opposed to military action.

Sources said the administration was struggling to devise plans for a military operation that would not suck US and other forces into a "quagmire". The Pentagon is still much more reluctant than the White House and State Department to get involved. Other European nations would have to supply the ground forces, but even supplying transport planes and air power could lead to American involvement on a big scale. Military experts said Serbian mortars on the hills around Sarajevo would endanger the aircraft but be extremely hard to destroy. One source even spoke of having to destroy Serbian supply depots, power stations and other installations.

The administration's calculations are further complicated by political considerations in this presidential election year. While a swift surgical operation would undoubtedly boost Mr Bush's standing, a protracted involvement that placed American forces in harm's way and merely kept warring factions apart could easily do the opposite.

Amid mounting speculation that some form of military intervention, if only to deliver food and medical supplies to the besieged Bosnian capital, was imminent, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, yesterday ordered an immediate halt to the shelling of Sarajevo and the withdrawal of anti-aircraft guns from around the city's airport.

In Sarajevo, there was scepticism about Mr Karadzic's promises. One resident reached by telephone said: "The Serbs agreed to all this on Thursday and the shelling since has been really really terrible. It has been hell, so how can we believe in this?"



Cheney discussing how to break siege

NEWS IN BRIEF

Move to shore up the rouble

Moscow: Officials from the Commonwealth of Independent States reached partial agreement yesterday on measures to halt the slide in the rouble as individual republics prepare to introduce their own currencies (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Meeting in the Belorussian capital, Minsk, three prime ministers and seven deputy prime ministers initiated an agreement setting out principles for transacting payments and controlling the money supply within the commonwealth. The document is to be forwarded to next month's heads of state meeting.

Strike broken

Washington: President Bush signed legislation in the early hours yesterday to force an immediate end to the two-day strike that has shut down the whole of America's railway goods system and to block a passenger service strike.

Lease granted

Dhaka: After 18 years of legal wrangling, Delhi has granted Bangladesh a 999-year lease of the Tin Bigha corridor, the size of a football field, which links mainland Bangladesh with its Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves in India.

US aid cut

Washington: The United States House of Representatives has approved \$13.8 billion (£7.3 billion) in foreign aid for the next financial year. That is the lowest amount of American aid that has been voted since 1977.

Turkey decides

Istanbul: The Turkish parliament voted to extend by four months emergency rule in the largely Kurdish southeast. In the past six months, 728 people have been killed in the region, including 258 members of the security forces.

Europeans weigh up Bosnian options

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MOMENTUM for taking military action to safeguard humanitarian aid to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, increased significantly yesterday at a meeting of Western European Union officials.

Options discussed at the meeting in London included some form of naval embargo or presence in the Adriatic off Bosnia to reinforce United Nations sanctions. Immediate WEU military intervention was ruled out, however.

Possible military options suggested by independent military experts include:

□ Hercules transport aircraft flying at 100mph about 500ft over Sarajevo could drop food, water and medical supplies by parachute over a wide area. But unless there are guarantees from the Serbian militia, armed with anti-aircraft guns, to hold their fire, these slow-moving planes would be highly vulnerable. The alternative is to secure the airport with troops once there is a genuine ceasefire.

□ If fighting continues, paratroopers could be flown to Sarajevo airport in an opposed landing to enforce an airbridge for relief supplies. But this would require at least two divisions of about 25,000 soldiers.

□ Surgical strikes could be mounted against key Serbian positions. While this option would appear likely to incur fewer casualties, it would not be militarily effective. Bosnia is not like Iraq, where allied fighters were able to pick out tanks and artillery batteries using the best thermal imagery techniques and target marking. The Serbian militia, who roam the forests in groups at night armed with mortars, cannot be picked off. They also have batteries of 155mm artillery pieces which, although they are more easily targeted, can be hidden in the trees.

Colonel Michael Dewar, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said: "The only way to stop the shelling of Sarajevo is to create a cordon sanitaire around the city, pushing the Serbian militia out beyond 20km (12 miles). But for that you would need about 200,000 troops."

Any military intervention on a large scale would take up to two months to organise, by which time the people of Sarajevo could be dying of hunger in thousands. This is why the emphasis at the meeting of the WEU was on finding a way of launching a strictly humanitarian mission.



Foot soldier: a Serb fighter, engaged in an "ethnic cleansing" operation yesterday, kicks his way into a house in Dvici, a Muslim village in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Serbs see ambitions sink in blood and duplicity

AROUND their charred bodies lay the loaves of bread they had been carrying in their helicopter. Exactly a year ago the two military pilots blasted out of the sky above Ljubljana, the Slovene capital, were the first victims of the war that has ripped Yugoslavia to shreds. Since then the toll has been horrendous: at least 20,000 dead, a refugee total as high as two million, with whole towns destroyed and villages pillaged and burnt.

Within ten days of those first shots, Slovenia, with no ethnic minorities to dog its course to independence, was out of the war. Today it is forgotten.

Militant Serbs in Croatia to the south began to go on the offensive. Croats hurled stones at Yugoslav tanks as they charged across their cities. In Knin, principal town of the Serb enclaves of Croatia, the mood was one of euphoric and martial triumphalism. To the south was greater Serbia: to the north, greater Zagreb.

Today they rue that time in Knin. A year later the tables have been turned. The Croats are no longer the underdogs. Serbs are in retreat, confused and utterly isolated from the

One year on in Yugoslavia's civil war, Tim Judah in Belgrade looks at its shifting focus and fortunes

world. The Serbs of Croatia, who were then 12 per cent of the population, were determined to stay in Yugoslavia. In fact this was nothing less than a plan for a greater Serbia, and Croats were ruthlessly driven from the Serb-held territories.

Until barely three months ago the plan was going well. United Nations peacekeepers were to come to the Serb enclaves to end the fighting there. Then the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was born. As Bosnian Muslims, Croats and Serbs talked about "cantonising" their republic, Serb militias began the task of "ethnically cleansing" areas that they claimed in Bosnia.

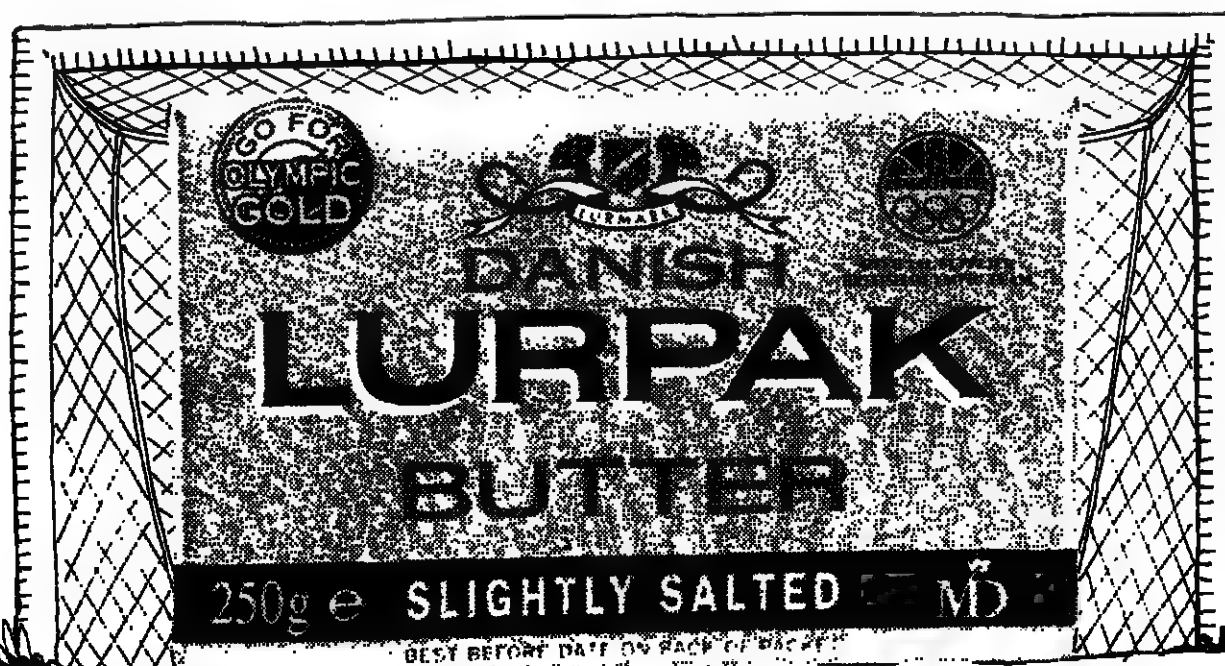
For the architects of greater Serbia it has been downhill ever since. Buoyed by successes in the field in Bosnia, Croatian forces can now contemplate all-out war to

drive the Serbs from their enclaves. Those Serbs outside Serbia who crowded as their forces pulverised Vukovar and ravaged the coast around Dubrovnik now face the prospect of Croatia's revenge. For the first time, Knin is being shelled and Serb houses are being dynamited in areas controlled by the Croat army.

After a year of war, nothing has done more to galvanise international public opinion against the Serbs than the merciless siege of Sarajevo. Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, promised that all Serbs would live in one state. Now hundreds of thousands of them are refugees and two million live in newly recognised "foreign" countries.

Now Mr Milosevic seems to be clutching at straws. With Serbs in retreat his latest suggestion seems, at face value, more harmless and eccentric than most: a confederation with Greece. Or is Serbia's most resilient politician cooking up something nastier than anything yet seen: a new call to save the fatherland by opening the partitioning of the hapless, unrecognised republic?

We think the Danes deserve a pat.



OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE DANISH NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM

Clifford Longley

Women priests show up the Synod's impotence

The Church of England suffers not a democratic deficit but a severe democratic deficit. The horrors of this excess are about to be demonstrated at the July General Synod at York, where the long trek to a decision on the issue of women priests reaches its penultimate stage. It is a notorious feature of the Anglican synodical structure that despite its immense scale over democratic detail, its overall effect is about as far from perfect democracy as elections to the Supreme Soviet under Brezhnev.

It is a good — though in Anglican terms unanswered — question whether the truth of a religious doctrine can ever be settled by head counting in an elected assembly. Certainly scientists would refuse to resolve disputes in science that way (though an overwhelming consensus might be taken as evidence).

The democratic arrangements for governing the Church of England exist as they are not primarily to assist in the search for truth, but because various sections of opinion do not entirely trust each other. What the synod founders created was a network of interlocking vetoes, so that no one group can push an advantage too far. But they did not build in safeguards enough. The "worst case" seems about to happen.

At York, the synod will split into five groups, each to have its own debate and then to vote. Four of the five debating bodies will be the upper and lower houses of the convocations of York and Canterbury, meaning the diocesan synods and elected clergy each meeting separately in two groups from the north and south of England. The fifth is the house of laity.

If any of the convocation groups votes down the resolution for ordaining women, they will have to meet in the autumn to try again. If the house of laity votes it down, the resolution is dead until 1995. These decisions will all be taken by majority vote. But provided the house of laity votes yes next month, all five groups reconvene in the autumn to debate again and vote again.

Then a positive decision will need a two-thirds majority in each of three groups, the house of laity, the house of clergy (the two lower convocations combined) and the house of bishops (the diocesan bishops). The betting is it will be passed by the bishops and the clergy, but in the house of laity, all rests on the agonising of half dozen "don't knowers" who could go either way. But it strains credibility to describe the resulting decision as the "mind of the church", which is what this byzantine process is designed to discover — and blasphemous to call it "the mind of God", as some churchmen are inclined to do.

Members of the house of laity were elected by members of deanery synods — a deanery is a cluster of parishes — which in turn were elected by all church members on parish electoral rolls. Yet it is widely known that many candidates for deanery synod elections have to be conscripted into standing, and only by sheer coincidence, therefore, will opinion in deanery synods reflect opinion in the church as a whole. That is a foundation of quicksand.

But an even greater weakness is the two-thirds majority rule. It enables any body of opinion which can command two-thirds plus one to impose its views on another group. That is a destructive power in the hands of a majority, because a minority of perhaps nearly a third cannot be swept aside. It is well above the critical mass at which any party, like the Confederate states in America before the civil war, or the Nationalist minority in Northern Ireland, begins to feel its views may one day prevail through militancy. In a system of absolute dictatorship by majority, minorities must be small enough to be crushed. If they are not prepared to be ruthless, on the other hand, majorities should forbear to dictate. One third is a large enough proportion to render the whole virtually ungovernable.

When the General Synod last had to make a decision as potentially alienating to a stable minority of objectors as this one, the issue was Anglican-Methodist unity in 1972. For the sake of unity, the synod decided not to proceed unless the vote in favour was 75 per cent. The proposal therefore fell. The suspicion must be that the reason such a "special majority" was not demanded this time is that the promoters of women priests knew they would never get it.

With the hurdle set at 66 2/3 per cent, they may well win; they may indeed have right on their side and deserve to win. But for the church's sake, the benefits brought to it by women priests will have to be enormous if they are to compensate for the harm done by the way the decision was reached.

Anne McElvoy, Berlin correspondent, finds the secret police slipped up on her private life

Secrets of my Stasi file

The white envelope bearing the giveaway stamp of the authority responsible for East Germany's Stasi files arrived by a special courier, who handed it over with a knowing glance and a stiff demand for my signature in triplicate. So, this was it. Two and a half years after the collapse of East Germany, and after a campaign of badgering, pleading and grumbling at the catchily named "federal trustee for the files of the state security service of the former German Democratic Republic" for swift access, the truth was in my hand.

Getting hold of one's file has a certain cachet in Germany these days. While the initial shock of having phone conversations, unflattering habits and amorous encounters laconically detailed has thrown some Stasi victims into a state of embittered depression, the majority find the sheer energy invested in charting their little lives amusing, even edifying. Immortality guaranteed for a third of the population.

Eastern authors long considered past their prime in the West have been given a new lease of

life, writing about what other people wrote about their writing. A competition of "Mine's longer than yours" has broken out, with prominent Stasi subjects comparing the extent of their files. In the Paris Bar, where Berlin's literary gather to compare advances, the only revelation that causes a longer, more detailed file than a five-figure deal is a five-page Stasi file.

I too caught the curiosity bug. Partly, I admit, so as not to be left out of the conversation about the Stasi legacy that has dominated Eastern life in the past year, partly because as a Briton who studied and worked in the East before the fall of the Wall, I was something of a rarity, sure, everyone agreed, to have been of great interest to Look, Listen and Grab Incorporated.

As the first foreigner to request access to her file, I was treated with exemplary caution by Joachim Gauck, the former

priest who administers the poisonous legacy of the Stasi's endeavours from a small east Berlin suite of offices. He gave a chilling lecture about what I should be prepared for. He had seen marriages broken, friends estranged, lives ruined by the revelation of double-dealing and betrayal. He paused, lowered his voice and said gently, "I have to tell you that as a foreigner, you may even find that you were recruited yourself without knowing it."

It was, apparently within the service's diabolical power to infiltrate false friends into the groups around target people with the sole intention of creaming from them information about others. This was the warning which activated the gremlin of suspicion. Had not S been a mine too curious when I described my first visit to a well-known dissident priest? And what about P, that quiet girl

who hung around the table when I went to stay with an old friend, the son of a politburo member at his elite university (an illegal and probably foolhardy exercise in those days). Then I started to brood on my closest friends. What if? Not M; oh, please not him, I would never have faith in human nature again if he turned out to be One of Them, but what if...

"Honoured Ms McElvoy," the letter begins, "the examination you requested has revealed that no information is kept on your person in the archives available to us." In other words, the cupboard was bare. My reactions swung between perverse disappointment and incomprehension. Surely someone must have cared about me enough to start a file? Just a little one would be better than nothing.

The archivist was sympathetic, apologetic even. "The Stasi

wasn't perfect," he said consolingly. He had spent half an hour recently comforting a distraught applicant who thought he had been a dangerous dissident only to discover that his subversion. Now he is wondering how he can face his friends with the news.

There is, however, as the authority admits, something rather peculiar about my own case. Even if I was not watched or bugged, there should be some record of my visits to dissidents and writers in the files held on them. There is no mention of the times I was detained at the border (once for several hours), nor of the conversations I had with officials at the London embassy, including a dressing down over an article and a threat to withdraw my visa. If my minder in the foreign ministry was not a spy, then what were all of those awful

lunches for? Something may yet turn up from these official sources, diverted in the confusion to a different archive, but had there been lay informers on my case they would have been revealed by now by cross-reference at least.

The authorities have assured me they will keep hunting for my past, and the archivist is so fascinated by the idea of a Western correspondent without a file that he is adamant that they will unearth it somewhere. As it is, my friendships are intact, my faith in human nature is restored and I comfort myself that my file was just so hot that the Russians took it in the clear-out which followed the collapse of the East.

Albert Schweitzer once recommended that one should believe in all that is good in man but rely only upon the bad in him. He had no idea how disconcerting it is when it happens the other way round.

Anne McElvoy's book *The Saddled Cow: East Germany's Life and Legacy* is published by Faber & Faber.

Scientists' right to be wrong

Nigel Hawkes on the mood of caution among researchers

Where Edward Jenner alive today and contemplating the invention of vaccination, he would first have to square it with his local ethical committee. The same would be true of Howard Florey and Ernst Chain, rushing to test penicillin on dying men. The chances are that both experiments would be turned down.

Ethics, once dismissed (by a journalist) as "a county east of London", has now become a looming presence in science and medicine. No sooner is the ink dry on a paper announcing a new development than somebody — usually Lady Warnock — is asked to pronounce on its ethical implications.

Wise as she invariably is, I have the feeling that ethical concerns are beginning to get above themselves. Misplaced worries about public acceptability, combined with medical lethargy and an aversion to risk, are threatening the future of clinical medicine in Britain. This feeling was never stronger than at the launch this week of the British Medical Association's new paper on genetic technology.

In many ways this is a good book, well written and scientifically sound, but it is infected with a deadly negative emphasis. The authors give the impression that they would like to travel the country stamping out optimism wherever it dared to raise its tattered head. For a book intended to clear away "public anxieties" about genetic manipulation, it sets an extraordinary number of ethical

hazes running. For the BMA, it seems, there is no discovery in science that does not raise a new ethical problem.

Shall we have a national database of genetic information? No, that would be Big Brother. What about effective screening for genetic disease? No, that would further disadvantage those with genetic faults. Shall we give the green light to private enterprise, which has done more this century to cure disease than doctors have? No, genetic manipulation is far too sensitive to be left to the marketplace.

Seldom have I read so many gracefully written excuses for inaction. This ought to be a wonderfully exciting period in medicine, as all the discoveries in molecular biology which began in Britain finally achieve success in curing disease. Yet it is not here but in America that gene therapy is being pursued.

There have been at least 20 applications to the US Food and Drug Administration for approval for genetic therapy experiments. The first patients, two girls with a rare enzyme deficiency, are alive and well two years after the therapy began. The risks are no greater than for any other new treatment, but here we have yet to begin.

Dr Anne McLaren, a member of the BMA committee responsible for the book, says lack of money explains British dilatoriness. She is partly right, but there is also a lack of courage and enterprise, and an overdose of caution. Reading the book reminds me of a poem by Roy Campbell, on another subject:



Daring to save lives: Jenner's experiments would today fall foul of ethics committees

You praise the firm restraint with which they write — I'm with you there, of course. They use the snaffle and the curb all right. But where's the bloody horse?

Nor is the problem in genetic engineering alone. Ian Fentiman, a leading cancer specialist and a consultant surgeon at

Guy's Hospital, charges that opportunities to test new treatments in Britain "are beset by lethargy in doctors, fear in patients, attack from lawyers and ethicists and finally, a lack of funding from the NHS". His complaint is that clinical trials, the only reliable way to improve treatments, are used far

too infrequently. Many doctors prefer to ponder on, doing what they've always done even if it isn't curing their patients. "I know what's right for my patients," is the view Mr Fentiman attacks in an article in the current issue of *Science and Public Affairs*. Setting up trials big enough to

reach worthwhile conclusions is, of course, a time-consuming business, but says Mr Fentiman, that does not justify never asking patients to enter trials. In Britain only five per cent of patients with cancer are asked to take part in a trial, despite strong evidence that trials are the best way to improve therapy, and mounting evidence that individuals who enter trials fare better than those who do not. The situation is just as bad if not worse in America, where patients entering trials face huge and daunting consent forms.

I often receive letters or phone calls from parents of children with genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis or muscular dystrophy, asking whether genetic therapy will come soon enough to save their children. There is no proper answer.

Nobody would argue that science should be entirely unconstrained by ethical considerations; but a balance must be struck. In the end, what matters is the conscience of the individual, not the time-wasting of ethical committees or the unspoken barriers to initiative.

Anyhow, it seems unlikely that ethical committees can restrain science when it is about to go wrong. Would any committee have prevented the development of chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals that destroy the ozone layer? The difficulties are caused by effects which no committee can begin to guess.

Usually these effects are trivial by comparison with the benefits, and if they are not, as in the case of CFCs, the development is in due course abandoned. We cannot move forward unless we try, and trial necessarily involves error. By attempting to eliminate all risk of error, we throw away the chances of success.

It is hard to imagine the great scientists of the past responding tamely to the dictates of committees. They knew what they wanted to do, and did it. What we need is not more hand-wringing about the ethics of science, but a confident assertion that it provides solutions to human problems, as it always has. Ernst Chain, for one, gave short shrift to anybody who tried to hold him back. The millions saved by penicillin are the evidence that he was right.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Before we are drowned in hype for the XXVth Summer Olympic Games, perhaps we should clear up the chronic semantic confusion about them.

1. The games are named after Mount Olympus, the reputed home of Zeus and the other gods in the north of Greece, because it was one of the highest mountains, often crowned with thunder and lightning. Today it is crowned with tourist litter.

Wrong. They are named after Olympia, a shrine to Zeus on the plain of Elis in the Peloponnese 300 miles south-west, possibly so named because he was taken to have broken the javelin record by throwing a thunderbolt there from Olympus.

2. The Olympic Games were founded to be an international festival of amateur athleticism, sportsmanship and the brotherhood of man.

Nonsense. They were a religious festival, and a truce was declared for the duration, perhaps because they originated as the funeral games of some hero. But the truce was often broken, and the main attraction of the religion was the feasting that came after.

3. Whence then come the lofty Olympian ideals of fair play?

From Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a middle-aged French visionary who had been reading Tom Brown's Schooldays and was imbued with the English public school ideals of cold baths, Christianity and cricket

to prevent little boys from killing each other. The ancient Greeks had no idea of fair play or giving suckers an even break. All-in-wrestlers in the event known as the pankration, were allowed to perform any kind of violence except biting and gouging. The fact that several of them were nicknamed "lion" indicates that they broke the rules. One was called "Mr Finger-Tips" from his trick of breaking his opponents' fingers.

4. At least they were amateur, classless and raceless.

Jockstrap liniment to that misapprehension too. The ancient Greeks had no notion of amateurism, and a winner at the Olympics got a state pension for life. The games were confined to free Greek males. The notion that Britons, Americans and other barbarians could compete in the Olympics would have seemed blasphemous nonsense.

5. The Olympics introduced the concept of athletics as a noble activity.

Horse feathers. They were always a cauldron of chauvinism, cheating and propaganda. Alcibiades was accused of nicking one of his opponent's horses. The Emperor Nero, having postponed the games so that he could compete, appeared with a ten-horse team, only to be thrown from his chariot. Although he failed to finish, even so, he was proclaimed victor by the judges, on the grounds that he would have won had he been able to complete the course.

6. They are run for the benefit of the athletes.

Nonsense. They have always been run for the benefit of the old men who organise them. In the ancient games these were the priests and rulers of Elis, who derived great political influence throughout Greece from their festival. The modern games are run by megalomaniac and dotty old men, often with dubious political backgrounds, who decide which cities shall stage the games and which companies shall pay billions of dollars to televise them. The television camera has replaced Zeus as the idol at the centre of the games, and it is not as good an idol as Zeus with his statue.

7. At least the ancient Greeks had no "sports" as idiotic as synchronised swimming, or the one that combines sliding and shooting?

Perhaps. But they had a clanking race in full armour carrying, and often dropping, shields, and a relay race with lighted torches as batons.

8. Has no good ever come out of the Olympics?

Not a lot. The Greek dating system. Some high art, from Pindar's sporting poems to Myron's lost but much copied "Discus-thrower". Some moments of high drama. The best way to reform them would be to get rid of the chauvinist league table of medals between nations, with flags and national anthems, and get back to the original celebration of the individual body at its peak.

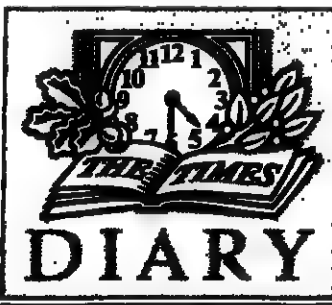
On the ball in Lisbon

FOR AT LEAST two delegations at the Lisbon summit yesterday, Maastricht and the re-election of Jacques Delors took a back seat. The Danish and German delegations had much more important things on their minds: namely the outcome of the European football championship final.

In an impressive show of European unity, despite the Danish referendum result, the Danish foreign minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen invited Kalus Kinkel, his German counterpart, to watch the first half of the match in his hotel room. The drinks reflected the delicacy of the occasion. "Both Danish and German lagers were served," said a Danish official.

When the whistle blew for half time, they travelled together to the official banquet at the Palacio Queluz, formerly the residence of the Portuguese royal family. Ellemann-Jensen went into dinner armed with a 2 in television, which was deftly placed among the wine glasses. Hearing of this, Chancellor Kohl ordered his aides to buy a similar gadget for himself at the dinner, coincidentally seated next to Ellemann-Jensen.

Kohl, who telephoned the German team coach before the match to wish him good luck, predicted an overwhelming German victory, but sensibly refused to sound triumphant. "Do not talk of revenge for Maastricht," said one of Kohl's aides. "It was a match between two friendly teams, from two friendly countries, who have managed to show some enthusiasm for football, which is more than you can say for the rest." Could he mean Graham Taylor's lacklustre English side? The Germans, diplomatic to the last, refused to expand.



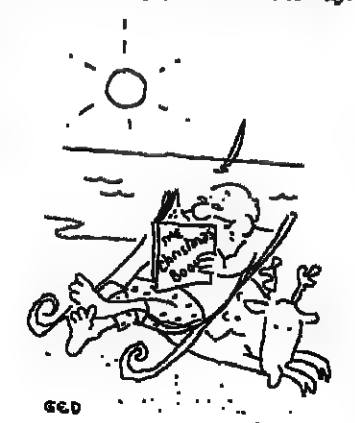
The Danes, whose success in the championship has catapulted them onto the international stage for the second time in a month, were enjoying the spotlight. A spokesman for the Danish delegation said: "Mr Ellemann-Jensen and Chancellor Kohl had heads bowed throughout most of the dinner. But they did discuss other subjects on which it was much easier to reach agreement." Whether Denmark should hold another referendum, perhaps?

One in the bush

ECONOMIC woes were put aside on Thursday night at Norman Lamont's 50th birthday party, one of the jolliest occasions at 11 Downing Street in many a long recession. Guests were entertained in style, with music and Spanish dancing. Towards the end of the night, some of the livelier guests turned on the Exchequer karaoke, with Petronella Wyatt, daughter of Lord Wyatt, proffering such a spirited rendition of Lili Marlene that the Chancellor asked for a repeat performance. She was only outdone by the nightingale singing in the garden. As guests scanned the trees looking for the songbird, Lamont admitted a deception. The nightingale was as illusory as those famous green shoots of recovery. A concealed

loudspeaker was conveying bird-song from a CD bought for the Chancellor by his wife Rosemary.

Christmas is in sight already. Take a bow Malcolm Hillier, whose publisher, Doring Kindersley this week decided we would not be able to struggle through July without the knowledge that his Christmas Book is on the way.



Plus ça change

LOYAL SUBJECTS will be queuing round the block at the Barbican for the British premiere of the musical *Biblie*. The risqué show depicts the royal family losing the affection of the nation. Princess Diana, unable to cope with her royal duties, longs for excitement, the Queen has fantasies of being taught the breast-stroke by a Hollywood heartthrob called Mowgli, her bumbling consort does tricks with string, and the family is chided by a stuffed-shirt prime minister whom they affectionately refer to as "Fruite". Before royalists shout "treason", it should be explained that the libretto is not by Andrew Morton, but by Moss Hart, and the music by none other than Cole Porter. The work was written in 1935 and has not been performed in Britain

since. Ian Marshall Fisher who is reviving the show at the Barbican next month, says: "It's not a spiteful piece, but it is very funny. Cole Porter saw that the lives the royals lead behind the scenes and their public image are very different."

What has she lost?

THE BRITISH MUSEUM is this weekend putting the Elgin marbles under lock and key. Melina Mercouri is in town.

The former Greek minister of culture, in London ostensibly to open the "Aid for Cyprus" concert at Wembley, cannot resist a visit to inspect the marbles. Mercouri's eyes still light up at the mention of the 2,500-year-old Parthenon sculptures, which the British insist were legitimately obtained from the Turks by Lord Elgin early last century. Since Mercouri lost her job as minister of culture the issue has subsided. But Mercouri, encouraged by strong support over the years from *The Times*, is determined not to let it lapse.

Maria Onoufriou, who is organising her visit, says: "You have only got to bring the subject up and she is off. She had hoped to see John Major to discuss it, but his programme did not allow it."

● *Marital tiffs can happen in even the best regulated families — as we know. France has been agog for the last six years as rumours of discord in the marriage of its leading aristocratic couple, the Count and Countess of Paris, have leaked out. All now seems harmonious. The couple are to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary with a mass conducted by Jacques Perrier, Bishop of Chartres, at the royal chapel in Dreux on July 4. Would it be churlish to point out that the celebration is a year late? They married on April 8, 1931.*



INSPECTING PEROT

Ross Perot has this week been forced on the defensive for the first time in his remarkable but undeclared campaign for the American presidency. He has had to answer questions, some of them damaging ones. Most have concerned his past use of private investigators — "the Inspector Perot affair" — against various opponents. All presidential candidates experience such close scrutiny by their opponents. Often, as in the case of Governor Bill Clinton, scrutiny has amounted to irrelevant gossip about the candidate's private life. Mr Perot can claim no such exemption.

While this week's exchanges on breakfast television and on *Larry King Live* (an American equivalent of the Wogan show) have admittedly been at a low level of abuse, the allegations against Mr Perot are not peripheral but central to his candidacy. Anybody wanting to occupy the White House has to show that he has the experience and qualities to handle the presidency. Mr Perot has yet to do this.

Mr Perot's biggest asset, which his opponents hope to turn into his biggest liability, is that he is a political unknown. He attracts disaffected voters because he is challenging a discredited Washington political establishment. Yet he worries those who do not know what to make of him.

The latest allegations fuel these fears. Mr Perot has been accused of employing private investigators to look into the business, political and personal dealings of President George Bush and his family. Mr Perot is also said to have used investigators to spy on the friends and associates of his own children. He has strongly denied these charges, arguing that they were part of a Republican dirty tricks campaign, though he has admitted using investigators three or four times in his life.

The White House has predictably made the most of the charges. Bob Martinez, Mr Bush's drug co-ordinator, has described Mr Perot as "a secretive computer salesman with a penchant for skulduggery." Vice-president Dan Quayle has awakened innate American

fears about government intrusion by wondering what Mr Perot would do with the Internal Revenue Service, the FBI and the CIA under his control. "Who would be investigated next?", he demands.

While Mr Perot may have done nothing illegal, the charges are damaging. They fit in with existing doubts about his suitability. His record suggests that he is a thin-skinned and ruthless businessman who rules his companies autocratically. He is impatient with dissent, sees conspiracies among opponents and pursues vendettas against those with whom he disagrees. These methods are alien to the world of politics which relies on persuasion and co-operation to reconcile diverse interests. As he said of himself in 1969: "What made me a success in business would make me a failure as a politician."

By temperament and behaviour, Mr Perot seems to have little regard for the restraints which are at the core of the American constitution. He has never shirked seeking influence and favours from Washington and has at times seemed to be developing a personal foreign policy over his obsessive search for American prisoners of war and others missing in action in the Vietnam war (of which there is no hard evidence). This has led him into a liking for covert and paramilitary operations rather than normal methods of diplomacy and government action.

Mr Perot has so far been able to brush aside such criticisms and rely on his populist anti-Washington appeal. The difference now is that the public is paying attention to what he says as well as what he appears to represent, judging by calls to phone-in programmes and by the opinion polls. His previously spotless image has become marked. The proportion of voters regarding Mr Perot negatively has more than doubled in six weeks, and is still rising. That is not fatal, yet Mr Perot's strong reaction to the charges and his ability to hit back at Mr Bush show his resilience. But he still looks more like a lightning-rod of discontent with the American political system than his credible saviour.

ROUGH FISHING

Not every fisherman's tale (or fishery minister's whopper) should be swallowed whole. There is less in the current Anglo-French conflict in the English Channel than meets the fish-eye lens of the news camera. Despite John Gummer's excited reference yesterday to a millennium of Anglo-French hostility, this is no cod war. The affair, and periodic friction between the native fleet and other boats, is significant only as an indication of the predicament facing all European fishing fleets: an acute shortage of fish and a surplus of boats.

Its survival now seriously at risk, every nation's fleet is competing all the more ruthlessly. Though some 80 per cent of the European Community's fishable seas are under immediate British jurisdiction, the regulation of international fishing appropriately lies at supranational level. Thus Britain has been given a quota, and if fishermen from France and elsewhere think it too high, as they do, they can go to their own ministry and have representations made at Brussels. Causing deliberate damage to British trawling gear is the lawless way of achieving what should be done properly, if at all, by international negotiation followed by effective regulation.

Such negotiation and regulation is a working model of subsidiarity as it ought to be. Brussels should do what only Brussels can do. It alone can make rules which fairly arbitrate between conflicting national interests, and it alone can see that they are observed without fear or favour.

With steady or expanding fish stocks, there is room at sea for everybody and regulation can be gentle. Since the sharp and so far unexplained fall in stocks of the late 1980s,

the Brussels fisheries commissioner, Manuel Marin, has been in trouble. There are only 19 EC fishery inspectors. They have no boats or planes and virtually no rights. They have to rely, for access to the grounds and catches they are supposed to supervise, on favours from national fishery authorities. If they find a discrepancy, putting it right requires the goodwill of those national authorities, which are subject to domestic political pressures.

One of the aims of the Maastricht treaty, urged by the British, was to give the enforcement of EC-wide regulations more EC teeth. Those countries which publicly agree rules, then cynically ignore them, could be forced into line alongside those, like Britain, which give their word and tend to act on it. Enforcement of the rules for fishing, including net sizes, zones and licences, will continue to be up to national governments. But the temptation to favour domestic industries will remain unless Brussels is seen both to be fair and to be tough in punishing, by fining if necessary, those who blatantly disobey or take the law into their own hands.

Falling fish populations are causing dismay to all the fishermen of Europe. The Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill, now before Parliament, will enable the British government to cut British sea fishing by 30 per cent or more. Reduction in catches may improve breeding rates, but there is no guarantee that the recent rapid recovery of the herring fisheries, as a result of international restraint, will be repeated. Meanwhile French and British fishermen will want to know that the pain is being shared equally. They must believe in fair play, which means having an umpire, which has to be Brussels. Or else, in desperation, they will start getting rough with one another. The first signs are there.

VIRGULE A MAASTRICHT

La langue de la République Française est le français, nous dit une addition à la Constitution cette semaine. Cet amendement a été ratifié avec d'autres changements pour obéir au traité de Maastricht et a été voté par les deux Chambres.

Nous, pauvres Anglo-Saxons paumés, n'avons jamais douté, depuis notre conquête par Guillaume il y a neuf siècles, que le français était la langue officielle de la France. Notre langage officiel pendant trois siècles a été le français, bien que le grand public ait continué à parler anglais. Plus de la moitié de notre vocabulaire vient du français. La langue du gouvernement, de l'administration, de l'Eglise et de «l'establishment» est le français. Tout comme les abstractions, les mots littéraires et culturels qui datent du temps où la littérature française dominait l'Europe. Notre langue est une salade composée dont la moitié des ingrédients vien de France. Si nous avions ici une constitution écrite, nous pourrions y annoncer que la langue de la Grande Bretagne est à moitié française... mal prononcée.

Mais les Anglais ont l'art de toujours se débrouiller, et leur langue leur ressemble. Richelieu en 1635, établissant l'Académie Française, voulait «une équipe de grammairiens et de stylistes travaillant à créer une langue utilisable à l'échelon national». Bien des Académies furent ainsi créées. Dryden, Defoe, Swift voulurent en avoir une ici pour fixer définitivement notre langue. Mais cette idée a été rejetée ainsi qu'en Amérique. La langue est le signe de la vraie démocratie, toujours changeante, modifiée par chaque génération, au service de ceux qui l'utilisent mais jamais leur maître. C'est le symbole d'une nation, son identité et une arme fondamentale politisée.

La Californie et d'autres Etats d'Amérique

vont faire de l'anglais leur langue officielle, pour essayer de préserver leur identité parmi tant de groupes ethniques. Leur seul vrai lien est leur langue. Il n'existe pas d'Anglais qui ne parle pas anglais ou de Français qui ne parle pas français. Les citoyens peuvent être de toutes couleurs, de toutes religions, de toutes cultures, leur langue est leur lien: leur seul possession en commun. C'est un signe d'insécurité ou un manque de logique ou les deux si les Français pensent fixer leur langue en changeant simplement un article de leur Constitution.

Les jeunes continueront à parler un jargon américanisé pour être branchés, les gens de sciences utiliseront l'anglais car c'est la langue de l'atome, les quadragénaires dans le vent parleront de «cash-flow» et de «jobs» pour faire chic. Ce qui inquiète les Français plus que l'arrivée du français est peut-être que le monde aujourd'hui fait moins attention à la culture française, qui prédominait depuis les Grandes Invasions.

Le français survivra malgré EuroDisney, malgré Maastricht. C'est une des grandes langues du monde. Soixante-dix millions le parlent. C'est la langue officielle de trente nations. C'est une langue plus lucide et plus précise que le mélange anglais. Racine a su dépouiller la condition humaine avec deux mille mots. Shakespeare avec dix-huit mille. Charlemagne, le premier européen, a fait du français l'héritier du Latin de Rome et du Celte robuste des Gaulois. Villon, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Yourcenar et tant d'autres ont enrichi le monde. Aucune loi n'est nécessaire pour protéger tant de trésors.

The Times est né de l'intérêt des Anglais au moment de la Révolution Française. Une Europe fédérale ne pourra jamais détruire la grandeur de la plus belle langue du monde. Ne craignons rien, belle langue de France.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Call for a wider Alamein tribute

From the Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair and others

Sir, We British are often reluctant to commemorate our historic victories by land, sea or air, a reluctance epitomised in the memorable and mordant comment by the Duke of Wellington after Waterloo: "Nothing except a battle lost can be half as melancholy as a battle won". But this reluctance, like modesty, can be taken too far.

The victory of our land forces over Rommel in the autumn of 1942 in the western desert of Egypt was, with Stalingrad, the great milestone of World War II and should be commemorated with befitting resonance, gratitude and humility.

The fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Alamein falls in October this year. Although there are plans to make the annual ceremony at the Alamein war cemetery a special one, it is not hard to visualise the difficulties and the expense confronting veterans and their families, should they wish to make the journey in large numbers. Commonwealth veterans must also be considered.

Of even greater importance, however, is that a ceremony on Egyptian soil cannot rank as a national event of which this country as a whole can feel a part. Victory at Alamein was not achieved alone by the Eighth Army, the desert air force and the Mediterranean fleet of the Royal Navy: it was the war effort and the spirit of the whole nation and the empire which played a full part in those heart-lifting 12 days of October 1942.

A service of thanksgiving in St Paul's for what was the turning point in a struggle which up to then had been grim and often daunting is surely what our memories and our gratitude deserve.

Yours faithfully,
ABERDEEN,
BOYD-CARPENTER, BRAMALL,
BURNHAM, ION CALVOORESSI,
CHALFONT,
CHARTERIS OF AMISFIELD,
WINSTON CHURCHILL,
RUPERT CLARKE,
CLEWDYNN OF PENRHOS,
FREYBERG, ROLAND GIBBS,
MICHAEL GOW,
HARDING OF PETHERTON,
STEPHEN HASTINGS,
JOHN HENDERSON, ROY JENKINS,
KILLEARN, OLGA MATLAND,
CAROL MATHER, MOLLOY,
ORR-LEWING, TWEEDSMUIR,
WELLINGTON, WESTBURY,
IAN WESTON SMITH.

The Old Rectory,
Hinton Waldrist,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

Elephants at zoo
From Mr Peter Hassell
Sir, You report (June 18) that each of the elephants at the London Zoo costs £15,000 a year to feed. My great-grandfather, Joseph Hassell, wrote the elephant in *Common Things and Elementary Science*:
The following was the daily fare of an elephant called Old Jack, which was the favourite of the children who visited the Zoological Gardens when the writer was a boy: One truss and a half of hay, 42 lbs. of turnips, a mash of 3 lbs. of boiled rice, a bushel of chaff, a bushel of bran, 10 lbs. of sea-biscuits, and 36 pails of water. Every evening a truss of straw was given him for a bed, and this he used to manage to eat before the morning.
Old Jack and his successors, it seems, finally ate the Zoological Society out of house and home.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HASSELL,
28 Brown's Hill,
Dartmouth, Devon.

Employing over-40s
From the Director of Age Concern England
Sir, An assurance that Britain is to use its presidency of the European Union to strike a blow for the over-40s (report, June 22) will be welcomed by older workers across Europe.

The UK government is in a good position to raise the issue, since our own civil service has set an example by raising recruitment upper age limits over recent years. Last year, the Irish civil service abolished age limits on recruitment of its officers. A priority for the UK presidency should be for EC institutions to abolish such limits. The private sector — where there is widespread prejudice against workers over 45 — should also be targeted.

France is the only European country with legislation banning upper age limits in recruitment advertisements. The French government is also actively promoting employment of older workers by exempting companies from employer's contributions when they recruit older unemployed workers.

Next year has been designated "European Year for Older People", which makes an excellent opportunity for concerted action to end age discrimination in employment.
Yours sincerely,
SALLY GREENGROSS,
Director, Age Concern England,
Astral House,
1268 London Road, SW16.

Ulster's future
From Mr Alistair B. Cooke and others

Sir, Your leading article on Northern Ireland (June 15) notes that the local parties have put forward incompatible proposals for the future government of the province within the United Kingdom.
You suggest that the British government is now enlisting the help of the government in Dublin in order to exert pressure on the local parties. That misrepresents the position.

The Dublin government is involved in the quite separate strand of talks dealing with relations between the two parts of Ireland. Any involvement of the Dublin government in the talks on the way Northern Ireland should be administered would prove fatal to their chances of success. The result would be to strengthen the determination of the SDLP to persist with their proposals, which provide in effect for the joint administration of Northern Ireland by the two governments.

Those proposals must be abandoned. No one who supports the

Water abstraction and cost of meters

From Mr D. H. Braggins

Sir, It is encouraging to hear from the chairman of the National Rivers Authority, Lord Crickhowell (letter, June 24), that the NRA "will not hesitate to vary or revoke [water abstraction] licences if that is necessary in order to protect the environment": a praiseworthy policy, but is its spirit being implemented?

South West Water had a licence enabling them to abstract up to one million gallons daily from the River Axe, provided that the water was above a certain prescribed flow. During recent dry summers the flow has been inadequate to enable them to exercise the licence, and indeed the level has fallen to such an extent that some silting is taking place in the estuary and weed is proliferating.

SWW sought a drought order in 1991 to have the prescribed flow reduced. Their application was rejected after a public enquiry, although the NRA had not opposed it. In November 1991 SWW applied again for a temporary licence to enable them to continue abstracting water from the River Axe with a reduced flow, in effect enabling them to continue taking water from the river under summer drought conditions. Last week, despite strong public objections and another dry summer with extremely low water levels, the NRA southwest region approved the licence.

It is difficult to reconcile these actions with Lord Crickhowell's statement:

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BRAGGINS,
Blue Ball, Payhembury,
Nr Honiton, Devon.
June 24.

From the Director General of Ofwat
Sir, Business Comment (June 19) endorses the doubts expressed by Mr John Bellak, Chairman of Severn Trent, over the economics of metering as a universal system of charging households for water, and suggests that I have advocated this universal system. That is not the case.

Paying for Water, the strategy which I set out last December, encourages optional metering at the customer's discretion (which Severn Trent pioneered). It also advocates selective metering by companies where installation costs are low and where delivered water costs are high. In a report which you published on the same day ("Disappointing Biffa stems water flow") Mr Bellak is quoted as contrasting the £107 million for the Carsington reservoir in Derbyshire, which adds 10 per cent to Severn Trent's capacity, with a possible 10 per cent saving from universal metering, at a cost of £600 million (his figure). But this fails to look at the whole picture.

The obsession with flushing water to the sea reduces the quantity able to seep into the water tables, decreases evaporation rates over land surfaces and ensures that when we want it the water is elsewhere. In consequence very expensive remedies are frequently proposed.
The long-term solution is to use all means to hold back water on the land as long as possible and at as high an altitude as possible. There is no good reason why these islands should ever be short of water except occasionally, locally, and at the surface. Get the drainage policies right and a host of environmental problems will begin to seem not so insoluble.

Yours truly,
R. B. RICKARDS,
Emmanuel College,
Cambridge.
June 24.

Wheels and woe
From Mr D. B. Sinclair

Sir, Parking on the public highway adjacent to a British Rail station I was clamped by a BR contractor. The "fee" to recover my car was £50 plus VAT. I declined to pay, removed the wheel together with the clamp, affixed the spare wheel, then drove home with the offending clamp.

The next day I suggested to BR that, on payment of £58.75 to a charity, I would return the clamp. The upshot was that I was arrested for "theft" of the difference between detaining a car and detaining a wheel clamp? In addition, if there is a doubt about the general legality of clamping fees, should the government be charging VAT?
Like Mr Harris (letter, June 23), I need knowledgeable legal advice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SINCLAIR,
Vine Farmhouse, Isington,
Alton, Hampshire.

From Mr Gerald Owen, QC
Sir, What about letting all the tyres down to immobilise cars parked on private land?

I doubt whether this itself is illegal under the Mischiefous Damage Act. And if the car owner sues for damages in a civil court, the land owner has an even better counter-claim in trespass.

Yours etc.,
GERALD OWEN,
3 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

Instead, British government should be as much subject to the democratic wishes of the people of Northern Ireland as it is in the case of England, Scotland or Wales.

Given that condition, and that the Alliance, SDLP, DUP and OUP parties find themselves incapable of forming a coherent view on the province's economic problems, the Conservative and Labour parties need to become actively involved in Northern Ireland. Otherwise, any revived Stormont assembly would become a sort of uncapped metropolitan council, which would simply accentuate the dependency culture through constant demands for ever more public spending and subsidy.

Full integration of Northern Ireland into the political and administrative life of the UK would signal to the terrorists that they would not be able to detach this part of the UK and all the residents of Northern Ireland would at last have a say as to who governs them.

Yours faithfully,
ESMOND BIRNIE,
Appt 22, Ashleigh Manor,
Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Deaf to the calls of the garden

From Mrs Ruth Dryden

Sir, Philip Howard ("Goodbye gardening", June 23) is not the only one to believe that gardening "is the purest of human pleasures, provided that there is somebody else to do the gardening". My husband was once told by a friend that "a man should never take on a garden bigger than his wife can manage".

Yours faithfully,
RUTH DRYDEN,
19 Byron Road,
Selsdon, Croydon, Surrey.
June 23.

From Mr Mark Griffiths

Sir, Philip Howard's "Goodbye gardening" was an unlovely thing. God wot Can the multitude devoted to this pastime, profession and art be divided into the landed, with fleets of exploited labour, and the frustrated in search of "mindless" displacement activity? If so, the demographics of this country are not what I had believed.

Gardening ranks as our most popular (admissible) pursuit. The range and number of gardeners and gardens testify in the central role it plays in all our lives, as an innocent pleasure, as therapy, as design, as our heritage, as our most chosen environment, even as a model for our future husbandry of diminished wilderness.

Most cultures service a notion of Paradise. It is hardly surprising that poets should have engaged with the idea of the garden. Why accuse them of hypocrisy when some (for example, Pope — quite unable to lift a wheelbarrow, even in anger) have done more than a whole parliament of greens to teach us to "consult the genius of the place"?

Yours sincerely,
MARK GRIFFITHS (Editor),
The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening,
The Linnean Society of London,
Burlington House,
Piccadilly, W1.
June 23.

'Preposterous sticks'
From Mr D. A. Dewar

Sir, The most striking final obituary to the romantic history of tally sticks and the 700-year administration they reflected (report, photograph and Diary, June 23) was given by Charles Dickens in a speech on administrative reform at the Drury Lane theatre on June 27, 1855:

Agas ago a savage mode of keeping accounts on notched sticks was introduced into the Court of Exchequer, and the accounts were kept much as Robinson Crusoe kept his calendar on the desert island... Official routine inclined to these notched sticks as if they were pillars of the Constitution...

In the reign of George III, an inquiry was made by some revolutionary spirit whether pens, ink and paper, slates and pencils being in existence, this obstinate adherence to an obsolete custom ought to be continued, and whether a change ought not to be effected. All the red tape in the country grew redder at the bare mention of this bold and original conception, and it took till 1826 to get these sticks abolished.

In 1834 it was found that there was a considerable accumulation of them; and the question then arose, what was to be done with such worn-out, worm-eaten, rotten old bits of wood? It came to pass that they were burnt in a stove in the House of Lords. The stove, overgrown with these preposterous sticks, set fire to the panelling; the panelling set fire to the House of Lords; the House of Lords set fire to the House of Commons; and the two Houses were reduced to ashes.

"Preposterous sticks" maybe, but now sold for £17,600 at Sotheby's.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DEWAR,
(Assistant Auditor General),
National Audit Office,
Buckingham Palace Road,
Victoria, SW1.
June 24.

A Titian question
From Don Alberic Staupole

Sir, I should like to know a little more about Titian's *Venus and Adonis*, sold to the Getty Museum for something like £7.6 million (report and photograph, June 20).

Titian painted a version in 1553 for Philip II of Spain in his last period, when the king virtually monopolised his time and gift. That one is now in the Prado.

Another, painted by Titian the following year, is in our National Gallery. These are the same but differ from the Getty picture, e.g., in that Adonis has an entirely bare right shoulder.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. STACPOOLE,
Ampleforth Abbey, York.
June 20.

Signing for posterity
From Miss Natasha Dewar

Sir, I was wondering whether your readers could suggest something original to take into school on my last day, to have signed by all my friends.

Among younger children it is usual these days to have an old school shirt signed but, being a sixth former and no longer wearing uniform this does not seem appropriate. My mother's idea of taking a hymn book which was the fashion thirty years ago now seems to me a bit naïf!

Yours sincerely,
N. DEWAR,
22 Parkhurst Road,
Becky, Kent.
June 23.

OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES STIRLING

Sir James Stirling, architect and RIBA gold medalist, died of a heart attack on June 25 aged 66 after complications arising from a hernia operation. He was born in Glasgow in 1926.

JAMES Stirling was that rare creature, a British architect of world renown. Like many men of genius he was for much of his life a prophet with little honour in his own land. An impassioned exponent of Modernism whose later works showed intriguing glimpses of classical revivalism, his buildings managed to attract admiration and hostility in equal measure.

Abroad, both architects and the lay public found it difficult to comprehend the often fierce antagonism towards his buildings in Britain. His work for the city of Stuttgart was received not only with critical acclaim but with public adulation (apart from the great German engineer Frei Otto, who likened his designs for the city's gallery to those for Auschwitz). His reputation was equally high on the other side of the Atlantic. The *Washington Star* devoted a leading article in praise of his output when he received the 1981 Pritzker prize.

Although Stirling's completed oeuvre is small, his projects were legion. In recent years he was on the shortlist of numerous national and international competitions, in England notably for the National Gallery extension, Farnham Square, Bracken House, Clydesdale and the new Channel 4 building; abroad for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Hall, the Bibliothèque de France in Paris and the Kyoto concert hall in Japan.

Stirling's international reputation rests above all on two works, the engineering faculty at Leicester University and the Stuttgart Staatsgalerie. He was an influential teacher, as lecturer and professor at the Architectural Association in London and also at Yale and at Düsseldorf. His intellect, as much as his large frame and girth, earned him the nickname of Big Jim Stirling. He was typical of a certain type of Briton, querulous, individual, idiosyncratic, unwilling to be pinned to any group, his own man.

Though knighted only 12 days before his death, Stirling steadily collected the world's major architectural awards, the Alvar Aalto medal in 1977, the RIBA gold medal in 1980, the American Pritzker prize in 1981, the Chicago Architecture award in 1985, the Thomas Jefferson prize in 1986, the Hugo Harling prize in 1988 and the Praemium Imperiale award from Japan in 1990. He was an honorary member of academies in Berlin and Florence as well as of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

Born in Glasgow, Stirling was essentially a Liverpudlian. His father was a Scottish marine engineer and the family moved to Liverpool when Stirling was a year old. Thus the visual backdrop to his childhood was Liverpool Docks, where he used to visit his father, then a dramatic vista of masts ("fourteen miles of forest" as Herman Melville once wrote). His visual taste was formed by his perusal of his father's meticulous coloured drawings of ships' machinery. He was educated at Quarry Bank



High School, where he failed his school certificate and then went, briefly, to Liverpool College of Art. When war came he was, by virtue of his Scottish connection, commissioned in the Black Watch. But the inanities of regimental life appalled his sensitive (and at the same time volcanic) nature. Dining-in nights, with their indigestible mix of deafening band music and good food, wine and conversation, he found particularly intolerable. Another hate was the twice weekly inspections by the colonel who walked down the line of his subalterns, lifting their kilts with his crumpled mace to make sure that no one was "cheating" and wearing underpants.

When he could stand no more, Stirling volunteered for the Parachute Regiment and took part in the Sixth Airborne Division's drop behind German coastal defences on the night before D-Day. His war was not to be a long one. Among the first to engage the enemy, he was also among the first casualties, wounded by a blast of a tank shell 36 hours after landing. He was evacuated to Britain, but as his injury was mainly concussion he was soon back in Normandy. He was then injured again, hit in the shoulder by a burst of machine gun fire during the break-out from Caen. His war was now definitely over and he continued to suffer from some paralysis in his left arm for the rest of his life.

In 1945 he began at Liverpool, then Britain's largest university school of architecture. "There was furious debate as to the validity of the modern movement," he later recalled, adding that the book which most influenced him after Colin

Rowe's *Towards A New Architecture* was Sax and Witkower's inspiring pictorial survey *British Art and the Mediterranean*.

After a spell as an assistant with Lyons, Israel and Ellis, he set up in practice in partnership with the Glaswegian James Gowan in 1956. It was to be a fertile association, "Big Jim" and "Wee Willie" striking the creative sparks from each other that ensured whatever they did was an assault on stock notions of architectural propriety.

Their first substantial work was the Le Corbusier-inspired flats at Ham Common in 1957. This immediately drew the fire of the architectural establishment. With exposed concrete floors and generally brutalist demeanour, the flats struck observers as inappropriate for an otherwise Georgian and sylvan Surrey village. "They look like an ideological theorem imposed on the inhabitants," observed Ian Nairn in the *Surrey volume of Nairn and Pevsner's The Buildings of England*. "There is probably more protest than is needed for the simple provision of a few flats." In retrospect, with the brutalist features softened by weathering, the judgment seems harsh and the flats an unassuming enough addition to the Common. But the impression had been given and a "bloody minded" (Nairn's words) label was stuck to Stirling for the rest of his working life.

Stirling first won international acclaim with the much larger engineering building at Leicester university (1959-64), a commission awarded on the recommendation of the architect Sir Leslie Martin. This building represented a complete

break with the vapid Festival of Britain idiom that had come to dominate British architecture. Here were powerfully expressed, hard-edged, sculptural forms largely inspired by the Russian constructivists. Unlike the Ham flats, the block was subject to wide scrutiny, especially the traits of the "new brutalism", source of so much public dislike of Stirling's architectural generation.

Following the acrimonious break-up of his partnership with Gowan, Stirling was awarded the commission for a new history faculty library in Cambridge. Built on an L-shaped plan, enclosing a fan-shaped cascade of glass, it was strongly attacked by teachers and students alike for looking in winter and overheating in summer, criticism that dogged Stirling's buildings all his career. Demolition was seriously considered but eventually rejected by the university senate in the 1980s.

His other university commission at this time was the Flory building for Queen's College, Oxford, again demonstrating a hard northern industrial aesthetic and attracting criticism for its fierce dominance over a virgin riverside site. Some detected in it, however, a more delicate texture of tiles and glass rather than harsh concrete; perhaps the beginning of a less ideological, more mature Stirling.

In 1971 Stirling was joined in partnership by Michael Wilford at a time when, save for a few exceptional buildings such as his Olivetti Training School at Haslemere, clients seemed to have deserted him. His individuality now asserted itself in a new way. He was the first

notable Modernist to attack modern architecture for being boring, sterile, arrogant and banal. He claimed it subverted the richness of life. The great exhibition on neo-classical art held at the Royal Academy in 1972 was an intense influence and he moved towards a more classical style of bold and simple geometric volumes.

Stirling had immense talent and fertility as a draftsman, producing drawings that were works of art in themselves. In a few carefully chosen elevations and perspectives he could convey every aspect of a design and its setting. Not since the end of beaux-arts classicism had any architect shown such a sophisticated ability to handle complicated axes and interweave geometric shapes.

His unquestioned masterpiece in this vein is the Stuttgart Staatsgalerie. In making the public route through the building into a processionary way, Stirling awakened a sense of ritual in architecture that harked back to ancient Greek temple sites. Here was a building of elemental simplicity, carefully chosen materials making powerful use of colour.

The gallery did not merely appeal to his peers in the profession, but was a resounding success with the public. Attracting well over a million visitors in its first year, it pushed Stuttgart from 50th to first place in the West German gallery visitor ratings. Stirling further developed the colour elements of Stuttgart in the startling livery of the Braun headquarters in Berlin.

His best-known recent building in Britain is the Clarendon gallery, added to the Tate to house the Turner collection, again using colour and geometry to express the building's relationship to its setting. This time Stirling had to suffer the criticism of the profession but the accolade of the public. He was perhaps unfortunate as a result not to win the competition for the National Gallery extension, which went to Robert Venturi.

The accolades Stirling received abroad were a stark contrast with the brickbats at home. The Prince of Wales likened his design for Number One Poultry (on the Mappin and Webb site) to a "Thirties wireless set". At one point Stirling even spoke of breaking with Britain altogether, despite his place in the new trinity of British architecture (with Sir Richard Rogers and Sir Norman Foster).

Pond of food and drink and always struggling with his weight, Stirling was warned that a hernia operation could prove dangerous. It proved fatal. He was still at the height of his powers, with years of active designing potentially ahead of him. His most recent completed building was an elegant boathouse to complement the numerous temples of architecture, ancient and modern, at the Venice Biennale. Current projects include a masterplan for the Temasek polytechnic in Singapore and the revival of a 1985 project for a passenger interchange at Bilbao in northern Spain.

He married in 1966 Mary, one of the two daughters of the modernist architectural and wine writer P. Morton Shand, thus becoming the brother-in-law of Sir Geoffrey Howe. She survives him with their son and two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Leonard Mosley



IT WAS during his time as a war correspondent in the Middle East that Leonard Mosley (obituary, June 22), picked up some information about *Operation Condor*, the espionage mission of the two Germans, Johannes Eppler and Hans Gerd Sandstetter, who crossed the Libyan desert to Egypt and were arrested in Cairo in July 1942. The book he wrote about it, *The Cat and the Mice* (1958), remains the best full-length account of the episode, one on which a number of other writers drew, inaccurate though it is in places and embroidered in others.

In particular, Hekmath Fathmy, the belly dancer, whom Mosley often saw, captured his imagination. "Make no mistake," he wrote, "Hekmath Fathmy was something special." As a dancer, that was, but he could not resist making her in his book also a spy who drugged her besotted English admirer Major "Smith" so that Eppler could read the dispatches he was carrying from

GHQ to the Eighth Army. The court of enquiry set up after the affair would have let her off with a warning for her actually quite modest part in it but the British Ambassador, Sir Miles Lampson, later Lord Killarn, seems to have viewed her as Mosley did. He protested that she should not be freed "to consort with erotic young British officers".

Mosley's book was reissued in 1960 as *Fashole in Cairo*, after the even more embroidered film of the same name. *Hugh Dovey*

Vera Russell

YOUR admirable obituary of Vera Russell (June 17) demonstrated that she was both a remarkable and a difficult woman. Had she not been difficult, she would not have been so remarkable.

A perfectionist in everything, she demanded the highest, sometimes even impossible, standards from both her friends and her co-workers in the multifarious theatrical, literary, journalistic and artistic activities which filled her life almost to the time of her death. She was equally exacting of herself.

When she entertained in

her charming little house, hung with pictures by such close friends as David Hockney and Matthew Smith, she ensured that the guests were still chosen with the utmost care; that the table was still laid to perfection; that the food, however simple, was still delicious; that the conversation was still strenuously intelligent.

To live up to her standards was not easy. But to take part in the game of life with such an accomplished player meant that one's own performance was always raised. She never expected less than the best from one, and somehow one usually produced it. *Francis King*

Rex McCandless

THE obituary of Rex McCandless (June 16) was complete in every respect. Rex was a motorcycleist of some repute and his late brother Cromie a gifted road racer and TT winner.

Rex was never far from racing motorcycles and motorcycleists who were the subject of his acid comment on design and often on ability. His comments on the handling of the 125cc twins of Honda when they first arrived in the Isle of Man in

1959 echoed back to Japan and racing motorcycle chassis construction, world-wide, benefited to the advantage of every motorcycle sportsman.

Uncompromising, tough and even in retirement capable of sketching design suggestions for TT race machines that stopped rear tyre breakaway under power. Rex McCandless was held in high regard by the TT Riders Association who honoured him with a top table seat at their annual luncheon last October.

*Allan Robinson
Hon Secretary
TT Riders Association*

Thomas Hume

YOUR excellent obituary of Thomas Hume (June 23) rightly concentrates on his successful completion of two major museums in Liverpool and London but may I add a personal note from my experience as his young assistant at Aylesbury Museum thirty-five years ago (and subsequently

as a friend) and recollect his good humour and unfailing kindness to staff which extended to allowing me to sleep in a cupboard in the museum whilst searching for digs. I was fortunate to begin my museum career under his guidance and enjoy some early halcyon days.

*Arnold Wilson
(Former director of Bristol Art Gallery)*

SIR RICHARD FRANCIS

Sir Richard Francis, director general of the British Council from July 1987 and former director of news and current affairs for the BBC, died in hospital yesterday aged 58. He was born on March 10, 1934.

DICK Francis will justly be given much credit for the way he remodelled the British Council over the past five years. Improving its work, its status and its budget. But he will probably be best remembered by the public for his time at the BBC, where he was in charge of news and current affairs and then managing director of radio for four years before his resignation in 1986.

Francis was a classic example of the BBC high flyer whose career was suddenly grounded for good in one of the numerous blood-lettings which characterised life in the Corporation in the 1970s and 1980s. When Alasdair Milne was forced by the BBC governors to resign as director general in 1986, Francis, who had had many a tussle with Milne, thought that he was a leading candidate for the job. A considerable number of Francis's supporters and admirers believed likewise. Instead, he was told by the governors that not only would he not be considered, but that he could expect no further preferment. Shocked and incredulous, Francis resigned on the spot.

Dick Francis was a true Yorkshireman, with a strain of Yorkshire pugnacity. He was born in Harrogate and went to Uppingham, where he showed plenty of self-confidence and was a good actor, specialising in comedy roles. He managed only a third at University College, Oxford, but continued to act with OUDS. Called up for National Service in the Royal Artillery, he was immediately identified as officer material and commissioned in 1957.

After the Army he entered the BBC as a general trainee (Corporation code in those days for a "flyer"). Following the expected pattern of such privileged entrants, he distinguished himself first as a radio



features producer. He was switched to television, where he was seconded to light entertainment, which he did not enjoy. He was shunted off to drama, then to afternoon programmes and finally current affairs, which proved to be his forte.

As a producer on *Panorama*, Dick Francis was soon entrusted with many major assignments, especially wars, which he covered in every continent. His productions of programmes on the Congo and Vietnam were particularly admired. By 1965 he was assistant editor of *Panorama* from which he moved on to head *Twenty Four Hours* and to

become projects editor, current affairs. In 1968 and 1969 he was in charge of the European Broadcasting Union coverage of the American elections and of the first Apollo launch.

In 1972, when he was assistant head of current affairs, he surprised many of his colleagues by accepting what was then considered the backwater appointment of controller, BBC Northern Ireland. When he assumed charge of the BBC's operations in the Province the following year, the "troubles" were at their height. He established the principle, jealously preserved by his successors

in Belfast, that no programme concerning Northern Ireland should get beyond the planning stage at the BBC without full consultation with the controller there.

Because of his successful incumbency in what had become an internationally-known notorious trouble spot for broadcasters, Dick Francis now came to be regarded as the leading expert on such situations, and was much in demand as a speaker at conferences. His lecture "Broadcasting to a Community in Conflict", delivered at Chatham House in February 1977, is still thought of as a classic of its kind. In Northern Ireland itself, he is best remembered for having launched BBC Radio Ulster.

After Northern Ireland he became a member of the BBC board of management, as director of news and current affairs. His skill as a lecturer made him even more in demand in this new role. Two of his most memorable orations were "Television - The Evil Eye" at the Royal Television Society in 1981 and "What Price Free Speech", delivered to The Law Society the following year.

Although he was a friendly and amiable man, with a considerable sense of humour, Dick Francis stood out as a conspicuously sober-sided, conservative and restrained figure among a BBC board of management dominated at that time by the baggage-playing Alasdair Milne, the perennially jocular Bill Cotton, and the rumbustious Aubrey Singer. "Plodding" was a description often unfairly applied to him by his critics, although one of his BBC colleagues took a different view and referred to him as "the last of the cigar-chomping Concorde travellers". Francis was used to criticism and he also enjoyed the privileges of management.

His appointment in 1982 as managing director of BBC Radio was received with equal measure of rejoicing and dismay by the radio staff some of whom saw him as unadventurous, while others thought that his was exactly the steady hand at the helm needed at

that moment. The latter description, when he heard of it, gave him particular pleasure, because his abiding passion was ocean racing, at which he scored many successes. Also, the achievement of managing director status put him firmly in line for the highest BBC office, though this was not to be.

On the day in 1986 when he left Broadcasting House for the last time, deeply distressed after his resignation, a colleague said to him prophetically: "Never mind, Dick. If you can't be DG of this lot, there are other things to be DG of." Within a year he was director general of the British Council. It was a surprise appointment in many ways: the council had tended to draw either from academia or from areas of service less public than the BBC.

His first task was to restore reasonable relations with the Foreign Office, which had become decidedly sour by the time of Francis's arrival, one of the reasons why the council was distinctly short of cash. Francis made the peace and he got the money. During his period with the council its budget increased by 20%. His colleagues were at first taken aback by his sometimes abrasive manner and the way he treated those with whom he did not agree. Initially it was put down to the BBC years but later understood as being the carapace of a basically shy man.

Francis was determined to preserve and even extend the Council's overseas network and to fight for the role of English as a world language. He was early to spot the opportunities presented by the changes in Eastern Europe and to make sure his team was suitably strong there.

At home he supervised the move of half of his staff to Manchester, which was much resented in some quarters, and it is a sadness that he did not live to see the opening of the new offices there next month.

June 27 ON THIS DAY 1791



During the opening stages of the Revolution Louis XVI had a large measure of popularity, one maintained even after the capture at Varennes (On this Day, July 1 1791). The fall of the war against Austria was attributed to him; royalty was abolished in September and on January 21 1793 he was executed (On this Day, January 25 1985).

ESCAPE of the ROYAL FAMILY OF FRANCE

In the history of events and causes, there never has happened so sudden and so unexpected a Revolution nor so wonderful and well planned an escape, as the silent and unperceived departure of their CHRISTIAN MAJESTIES and THEIR FAMILY, from those vigilant guards placed round them in the Palace of the Tuilleries, to prevent that escape...

The escape of the Royal Family was made at one o'clock on Tuesday morning, nor was it discovered until between seven and eight, when the Commandant of the Castle of the Tuilleries went towards the King's apartment, to see whether his Majesty was stirring. He was met by one of the household, who told him that neither the King, Queen, the Dauphin, nor the Princess Elizabeth were to be found...

The dress in which they escaped is not so well authenticated, nor do we believe that it is precisely known to any one. It is probable that they were disguised, (some say as peasants, some say that the King was dressed as a shoemaker, and the Queen as a fruit woman, though this is all conjecture) but even in this manner it would have been impossible for them to have got away, unless a part of the guard which does duty at the Tuilleries had been bribed, for sentinels were placed all

round the palace. It is suspected, and certainly with a degree of probability, that M. de la FAYETTE was privy to the design, for it turns out that several sentinels were not on duty on the Monday night. We some time since hinted to the public that M. de la FAYETTE's visit to the QUEEN had of late been frequent and that many persons suspected him of having been gained over to the Royal party through her persuasions. Certain it is that the people of Paris entertained this suspicion, for no sooner was the King's escape known, than M. de la FAYETTE and M. de CAZALES were seized and held in confinement, until a deputation from the National Assembly rescued them.

The Duke d'ALMONT was likewise stopped by the mob, and the clothes torn off his back. The people were conducting him to the Palais de Greve, with an intention of hanging him at the lanterne but he was fortunately rescued by the National Guard.

The escape was certainly made through one of the private doors of the palace: it is believed through a passage leading from the pavilion in which the Queen slept, and from which there is a private communication to the garden. This avenue had no sentry placed over it. It is said that the Royal Family got into their carriages at the Pont Royal, a short distance from the palace. It is further believed that several officers of the King's former body guard attended the escape, and that some of them followed the Royal carriages at a little distance dressed in liveries: for about fifty persons immediately in the confidence of their Majesties are missing, and several have left the capital within the last fortnight. But the escape was most secretly contrived and admirably executed, as human wisdom could have suggested, for relays of horses were stationed on the road all the way to French Flanders, in order to facilitate the journey...

BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
31-36

● BUSINESS 19-22,27,28
● MONEY 23-28

MONEY

Profile

Peter Davis, Reed International's chairman, has a remarkable memory for names and faces. But he confesses that he "wouldn't have a clue" if asked what Reed's figures were last year and would have to find out. He is curious about people but combines this with a marked reticence about his own family. Page 21



Apologies due

Thousands of Lloyds Bank customers wrongly charged for unauthorised overdrafts will receive letters telling them they have paid too much interest and will be given a refund. Page 24

Wellcome for Sid

A tranche of 20 million shares worth about £180 million has been reserved for private investors in the sale of shares in Wellcome. The minimum investment will be £1,000. Page 24



Empty nesters

Diana Jarvis and her husband, Roy, do not intend to retire gracefully when they attain OAP status. Mrs Jarvis will still take commissions as an artist, while Mr Jarvis has rejected the option of pottering round the garden in favour of continuing in his own business. Seven Ages of Family Finance looks at the "empty nesters" wooed by investment advisers because they have more money and fewer commitments. Pensions and inheritance tax are examined. Page 25



Insurance costs

Insurance bills are set to increase dramatically again this year and people with spiky cars or property in subsidence prone areas could have problems finding cover. Page 23

Rate of interest

Building societies paying "unduly low" rates of interest to investors with money in closed accounts have been warned by the ombudsman they may have to pay compensation. Page 26



Home options

The gap between the cost of repayment and endowment mortgages has narrowed so that endowments are sometimes cheaper. But borrowers should still consider all the options. Page 27

Market wipes £1.8bn off BP share value

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

CITY fears that British Petroleum will definitely cut its next quarterly dividend in the wake of Thursday's sudden resignation of Robert Horton as chairman and chief executive knocked BP shares to a six-year low, and left a cloud over the entire London stock market.

At their worst, and in follow-through reaction to overnight New York movements, BP shares were 38p down at 205p in first dealings, but closed at 209p for a 34p fall on the day.

The nosedive wiped £1.8 billion off BP's market capitalisation to value the group at £11.3 billion, and sent the FT-SE 100 index down 23.2 points, to 2,534.1. At one stage, the index had been down by more than 30 points. Of the 637 million shares that changed hands, BP accounted for 104 million shares.

The fall in BP's share price was alone responsible for 13 of the stock market's 23.2 points setback.

Analysts said they were concerned that in the absence of a definitive — and early — statement from BP about its dividend intentions, there was a real danger of a false market being created. Suggestions that BP might, in time, have to make a rights issue continue to circulate in

investment circles. BP declined to elaborate on Thursday's statement that was issued after the London market had closed and in which it was recorded that Mr Horton said he was resigning "in the best interests of BP".

The oil group said it was its next set of quarterly results, together with the dividend declaration, on August 6. In the printed 1991 annual report, BP had started that results for the quarter to end-June would be published on July 30.

However, analysts are now calling for BP to move as quickly as possible and to preempt its own publication timetable so that investment uncertainties which are otherwise likely to continue to weigh heavily on market sentiment can be speedily resolved.

Lord Ashburton, formerly Sir John Baring of the Barings merchant bank, has taken over as BP's chairman. David Simon, previously chief operating officer, will become group chief executive, thereby splitting the executive roles that were previously both held by Mr Horton.

Oil analysts said, however, that while criticism for the sins of the past are invariably laid at the feet of the chief executive just gone, Mr Horton alone could not be held entirely responsible for BP's

past actions that include the acquisition of the minority stake in Standard Oil, the acquisition of Britoil, and the buy-back of some of the shares held by the Kuwait Investment Office.

Those three deals are estimated to have involved £10 billion.

"The fingerprints of many who are still with BP are all over such deals," one analyst noted, and BP still suffers from the debt burden that such deals brought to its balance sheet.

Temper, page 20
Stock Market, page 22



Past and present: Robert Horton, left, with David Simon, who has taken over as chief executive of British Petroleum

Sudden call to execution that arrived by golf buggy

SIR Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT, who is also a non-executive director of BP, was halfway through a round of golf at Turnberry on Thursday when a golf-borne messenger handed him a note. Sheehy, ignoring protestations, made his excuses and left. Six hours later, Bob Horton, the chairman and chief executive of BP, had resigned.

Precisely what happened during those six hours, nobody, except those present, is certain. We know that there was a full board meeting and that Horton's resignation was accepted unanimously. We also know that Horton was unpopular, and that he has since been described as arrogant, conceited and abrasive. Those close to the

company indicate that there may have been a boardroom dispute over whether the dividend should be cut — with Horton, ever macho, insisting that it must be maintained, despite a cost to the company of £905 million. With the oil price remaining steadily low, analysts had begun cutting profit forecasts.

James Capel cut its second-quarter figure from £120 million to £40 million. BZW cut its prediction from £100 million to losses of £40 million. If Horton had made a mistake, it was to fail to keep the City informed.

One analyst who, at a meeting with Horton in February, accused him of having been over-optimistic,

was told that not even the board had realised how bad things were until September. But, at a similar meeting at the end of September, Horton had predicted oil prices of \$25 a barrel or more.

At BP's annual meeting at the Barbican in April, shareholders and colleagues crowded round the directors as the meeting ended. Horton, aged 52, stood alone and aloof. He was never a team player; he preferred to dominate.

When the choice for BP's chairmanship hung in the balance, between Horton and his successor David Simon, Horton told one City gent: "If I am made chairman, Simon will stay on as my trusted lieutenant. If he is made chairman,

I will leave." It is not that Horton did not want to be liked. He wanted it on his own terms, as a rough, tough businessman who delivered the goods.

Some observers admit that he inherited a company weakened because it had overpaid for acquisitions; and that he faced up to the task of trimming the corporate fat. In his stint at the helm, he sacked thousands of middle managers, the so-called BP intelligentsia, who thought they had jobs for life. One BP-watcher admits that many of these often seemed to do little more than attend meetings, travel and run up expenses.

Horton replaced the old reporting structures with "egg cells", a

concept taught to him at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It packaged managers into small groups, with one member of each reporting to the board. But Horton's Achilles heel was that he could not delegate. Worse still, he found it difficult to listen.

The first person to talk will probably be Horton, although he is unlikely to say anything until his contract has been concluded. Given that he earned £850,000 last year, in salary and bonuses, his departure is expected to cost BP more than £2 million. Though the axe has claimed BP's hatchet-man, Horton could yet find that he has the last laugh.

CAROL LEONARD

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8985 (+0.0033)
German mark 2.9138 (-0.0010)
Exchange Index 83.3 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1963.9 (-30.6)
FT-SE 100 2534.1 (-23.2)
New York Dow Jones 3287.22 (+3.21)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 15812.73 (-330.99)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2-9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%
Federal Funds 3 1/4-3 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.64-3.63%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.8972
DM £1.9131
Sfr £1.9209
FF £1.7854
Yen £1.2575
Index 90.3
ECU 10.70423
ECU 1.421819
SDR 1.325950
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$343.35 PM \$343.50
close \$343.45 \$343.50 (£181.00-181.50)
New York: COMEX \$343.95-344.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$21.35 bbl (\$21.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 May 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

Adidas chief leads bid for company

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

ADIDAS, the German sports goods maker, has received a DM1 billion bid from an international consortium, headed by its own chief executive. The bid, by René Jäggli on behalf of a group of international institutions, paves the way for the second change in ownership in two years.

Other potential bidders are rumoured to include Britain's Pentland, which used to own a large stake in Reebok. Adidas's arch rival.

The latest development follows the downfall of Bernard Tapie, the controversial French businessman, football club owner and socialist politician. M Tapie's seemingly unstoppable rise ended abruptly this year, when he was charged with fraud and forced to resign as urban

affairs minister in the government of Pierre Berégovoy.

The scant details of the bid came out yesterday after intense media speculation, fuelled by M Tapie himself. In the French business daily Les Echos, M Tapie was quoted as saying that the offer was for about DM1 billion, which "is very close to what I want".

He expected other bidders. "Including one from a large French textile group", to come forward in the next few days. It is no secret that Devanlay is one of the interested parties.

A key player is Pentland, which last year bought a 20 per cent stake in the main holding group. The British company has first right of refusal in case of a takeover bid.

English directors ousted from Aegis

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

TWO English directors of Aegis Group, an Anglo-French media buyer, are to receive up to £3.5 million after a boardroom upheaval that has left the French in control of the company. One of the two is Peter Scott, the chairman and chief executive.

Mr Scott was one of the co-founders of WCRS, the advertising agency that was the forerunner of Aegis, in 1979. He has opted to leave the company after a board decision to move its headquarters from London to Paris on grounds of operating efficiency. The move will save Aegis between £4 million and £5 million a year.

A statement from the company said that Mr Scott and David Reich, another director, "have decided, for family reasons, not to relocate to

Paris". Mr Scott, who is paid £625,000 a year, had four years of a five-year contract to run and will receive up to £2.5 million. Mr Reich was on a three-year contract worth £325,000 a year. He will receive about £1 million.

Aegis's major shareholders are believed to be unhappy with the recent performance of the group. Profits fell by 19 per cent to £55.2 million last year.

Aegis is Europe's largest media buyer, with operations in almost every European country. Since 1989, when the group acquired Carat, a leading French media buyer, it has been dominated by its activities in France. After the departures of Mr Scott and Mr Reich at the end of this year, half of Aegis's eight directors will be French.

Vulture capitalists hunt for pickings

BY ANGELA MACKAY

WALL Street has coined a new term for dealing in the securities of collapsing companies — vulture capital. Otherwise known as "trading in distressed securities", the practice involves circling dying companies before swooping down to pick out the best bits.

David Heiman, of the law firm Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, and one of America's leading bankruptcy lawyers, believes the practice can be interpreted positively, because it often reflects a willingness to look forward to the opportunities offered by reconstruction of a cash-strapped company.

Vulture capital is encouraged by the unprecedented number of large business fail-



ures, which has knocked the confidence of some banks; these are prepared to sell their debt at a discount, even though they are secured lenders. "Some banks just want to make their provisions against losses and are not prepared to wait for the chapter 11 process to take its course," Mr Heiman says. He cites USG Corporation, a chapter 11 bankruptcy case on which he

is advising: \$200 million secured bank debt has been bought by "vultures" for 65 cents in the dollar and sold on for 70 cents in the dollar.

Vulture capital is considered a rather unsavoury practice by British banks, but there have been some instances. Secured debt in Mountleigh, for instance, can be bought for 85p in the pound since the property

group went into receivership this month.

One reason why vulture capital is more popular in America is that when an American company is down, it is not necessarily out. A company that has applied for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection often keeps its stock exchange quotation. There is much emphasis on "business as usual" and management is, in most cases, left to run the company while lawyers and accountants work with the court to devise a reconstruction.

In a British administration, there is a similar emphasis on keeping the business ticking over but listed companies invariably lose their quotations.

Wall Street, page 22

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Olivetti bows to share stake link with US rival

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

ATTEMPTS to keep the European computer industry free from foreign influences suffered another setback yesterday, when Olivetti, the Italian computer maker, bowed to the inevitable and agreed to an equity link with an American rival, Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC).

The two companies, which have a co-operation deal over personal computers, have agreed that DEC will become a shareholder, eventually holding 10 per cent. Initially DEC will take 4 per cent for £172.13 million (£78.2 million), another 4 per cent for the same price before the end of 1994, plus another 2 per cent to be bought next June on the open market.

The deal follows a similar agreement between Groupe

Bull, the French computer maker, and International Business Machines (IBM). This leaves only Siemens, the German electronics group, as an indigenous European computer maker without a strategic equity partner, although this does not take account of the numerous industrial and technological alliances common in the business.

Olivetti and DEC co-operate in personal computers, which Olivetti supplies to Digital. Aside from the equity element, yesterday's deal also includes a strengthening of their industrial links, the most important being the decision by Olivetti to adopt DEC's Alpha RISC (reduced instruction set computing) microprocessor technology for the next generation of its computers. RISC chips are faster than the present type. The choice of an appropriate RISC technology was also the main consideration in Bull's decision to link up with IBM.

The link widens the customer base for DEC's technology. International computer groups are involved in a tough battle over standards, especially in RISC, with the market leaders, such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard and DEC, trying to secure as many loyal supporters of their respective technologies as possible. Pierre Carlo Falotti, president of DEC Europe, spoke of "expanding the reach of Digital's technology".

Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti's chairman and chief executive, insisted the deal was not part of a slippery slope leading to DEC taking control. He said CIR, his holding company, "will hold the largest share of Olivetti's equity which is consistent with its long-term commitment to manage Olivetti's business". He said the deal should not be seen as a precursor to a merger, since mergers have a bad record in this business, citing the Siemens-Nixdorf merger as an example.

De Benedetti reiterated that the company was trying to break even this year after last year's £459.8 billion loss.



DEC equity deal does not signal merger: Carlo de Benedetti, chairman of Olivetti

Two firms fined by Lautro

THE life insurance subsidiaries of Commercial Union and General Accident have both been fined £50,000 by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) for buying shares in the Levitt Group. The Levitt Group collapsed in 1990, owing £40 million to investors. Roger Levitt, its chairman, faces 62 charges, involving £20 million. General Accident Life paid £7.35 million in June 1990 for its 4.9 per cent stake, valuing Levitt Group at £150 million. Commercial Union Life paid the same for a similar stake in August that year. The companies agreed that there was a connection between buying the stakes and increased sales opportunities for their products. This amounted to illicit paying of commission.

BM chief goes

Shares in BM Group lost a quarter of their value on the resignation of Roger Shute, chairman, for health reasons. The fall in the price, from 314p to 233p, wiped £90 million from BM's capitalisation.

Liberty rebuff

Brian Myerson, the South African entrepreneur, saw his hopes of a swift boardroom shakeup at Liberty dashed yesterday when shareholders rejected his proposals for the retailing group.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank points out that it is in no way involved either with Canary Wharf or its three main prospective tenants, as yesterday's story wrongly states.

Burnfield in cash call for expansion

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

BRIAN McGowan and Ian Staples have swooped on a high-tech business in Worcester to provide a third leg for Burnfield, the specialist engineering group where they took control a couple of years ago.

Mr McGowan, the chairman of Williams Holdings and Mr Staples, the chief executive, who came in from Halfords, are raising £22.7 million via a three shares-for-four rights issue, and are spending £20 million on buying Malvern Instruments from Cray Electronics.

Malvern Instruments manufactures machines that measure the size of particles in anything from a pot of paint to an asthma's inhaler, and they have rapidly increasing usage in quality control and the monitoring of industrial processes.

Over the past 20 years or so since it was founded, initially to use and develop technology from the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Malvern has carved out a 30 per cent share of the world market and is twice the size of any of its competitors.

Some 85 per cent of production is exported, with a third going to America. In the year to end April it made operating profits of £2 million on sales of £14.7 million.

Mr Staples believes there is strong sales growth potential but is also convinced he can make significant productivity improvements within the first six months.

At Budenberg, the acquisition made last year, he claims a gain of 40 per cent in productivity to date.

The rights issue, which will be supported by the directors, who speak for some 6 per cent of the equity, is priced at 165p a share.

On the stock market yesterday Burnfield shares eased 9p to 206p. The deal is good for Cray, which acquired Malvern in 1985.

"The proposed disposal will eliminate our debt, strengthen the balance sheet and allow Cray to concentrate its future strategy on information technology," said Sir Peter Michael, the chairman.

He added that it was the intention of Cray Electronics to pay a dividend of 0.5p a share for the year ended last April.

Greene King said the profit forecast was "very unexciting."

Morland answers Greene King bid with surging profit forecast

BY MARTIN WALLER

MORLAND, the embattled small Thames Valley brewer facing a £104 million hostile bid from the larger Greene King, has hit back with a pre-tax profit forecast for the year to end-September of at least £7.6 million, a 28 per cent rise.

The figure is broadly in line with City forecasts, but Jasper Clutterbuck, Morland's chief executive, said a recent five-year deal with Courage would add £800,000 to profits, a figure confirmed by Grant Thornton, the accountant.

and SG Warburg, the merchant bank.

Greene King's convertible shares offer, therefore, offered an exit multiple of just 16.7 times a year's earnings and the 450p cash terms on offer 15.7 times. This compared with an average among regional brewers of 15.6 and for Greene King of 16.0, he said.

"Clearly they are paying no premium for the quality of the company and no premium for control," Mr Clutterbuck said.

Morland was put in play by

Whitbread Investment Company, which sold 28.5 per cent of the company to Greene King and pledged the remaining 14.9 per cent it holds to the bidder.

"WIC may have chosen to sell out most unfortunately at that price. It's absolutely not in the interests of any other shareholders so to do," Mr Clutterbuck said.

Morland is also forecasting a rise in the dividend of 18 per cent to 8.4p.

Greene King said the profit forecast was "very unexciting."

Japan's shareholders find bribery the order of the day

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

THE highlight of the business calendar fell yesterday for Japan's 1,250 "sokaiya" or professional extortionists, when about 2,000 companies held their annual shareholders' meetings, deliberately staging them at the same time to dilute the efforts of these underworld-affiliated vultures.

The sokaiya, who make a living digging dirt on Japanese corporations and threatening to reveal all at annual meetings, have had a bumper

year, delving into a selection of choice financial scandals leaked last year.

The prestigious Industrial Bank of Japan, for example, made itself an obvious target when it was disclosed last autumn that the bank had lent ¥240 billion (£1 billion) to a former waitress and suspected gangster moll, now in jail charged with procuring illegal loans to fund stock market investments.

But it is one of Japan's worst kept secrets that the lips of the sokaiya are very simply sealed for a consideration of several

million yen. Yesterday's IBJ shareholders' meeting was wound up in just 26 minutes after board members dispensed with the formalities at a cracking pace and ignored questions.

Tokai Bank, found last year to have perpetrated a ¥63 billion fraud, was either less lucky or had not come to a prior agreement with its adversaries. Every time Kichiro Ito, the president, began his long and humble scandal apology routine, a sokaiya sitting near the front row leapt to his feet and yelled

"bakayaro!", loosely translated as "You bloody old fool!"

Waving an ominous-looking attaché case, which he claimed was full of murky secrets concerning more scandals, the man wandered off into a side room and re-emerged with a large grin sealing his lips, and probably a fatter wallet in his pocket. His colleagues, wondering what they could earn from a fresh dose of invective and a little threatened dirt, kept the president bowing and re-starting his apologies for three hours. In what became the

longest meeting of the day, Tokai Densetsu, the railway company involved in a share dealing scam with the late Susumu Ishii, head of one of Japan's largest underworld mobs, was besieged by sokaiya. Every time a board member stood up to express remorse over the scandal and vow it would never be repeated, a chorus of yells and cat calls issued from the audience.

The meeting dragged on for several hours and the company's docile non-extortionist shareholders failed to get a word in.

TEMPUS

BP prospects depend on dividend and direction



Spring in Southern Water's step: William Courtney, who declared a rise in payout

BP probably received more phone calls than it sold barrels of oil yesterday, and yet the guessing game about what the company will do with its dividend goes on.

There is nothing like uncertainty to unsettle a share price, and if the investment world really has to wait until August 6 before seeing the colour of the 1992 second quarterly payment, then BP shares are in for a bumpy ride.

A chart of the share price for the past 12 months already looks like a ragged cliff since BP shares have fallen from 355p last July to 243p immediately before Robert Horton's resignation.

When the London market opened yesterday morning, the shares caught up with overnight market happenings in New York, and the price fell 36p. By last night's close, BP shares, at 209p, were still at their lowest levels in six years.

BP's share price was already subject to unprecedented volatility in February, and fell 16 per cent in two weeks because of concern over reported 1991 earnings and the widespread fears about 1992 dividend prospects.

The key sentence on dividend philosophy, uttered and signed by Mr Horton on February 20 in his chairman's letter to shareholders,

was: "It remains our aim to maintain its real value over a run of years, and provide growth when trading conditions permit."

Clearly, on the back of poor first-quarter profits, and with the prospect looming of an actual first-time replacement cost loss in the second quarter about to be confirmed, the question is not if BP will cut, but by how much.

After a series of quarterly dividend payments of 4.2p a share, costing roughly £227 million each time, a cutback to 2.5p a share is a possibility. If that pattern were to be repeated, it would mean total dividends of 10p a year rather than of 16.8p a share.

Perversely, a reduced dividend would ease the pressure on BP. Weaker world economies and low oil prices have obliged the board to continue to make asset sales into weak markets at a time when buyers have been thin on the ground. At the same time, Advance Corporation Tax implications would ensure that a reduced dividend would enhance earnings.

Just how the Kuwait Investment Office, holder of 9.8 per cent of BP — half held in London, half in New York — would feel about a cut in its dividend remains to be seen. BP will not step back into investment favour quickly. But there will come a point

when recovery funds start to pick up cheap stock. Such a point could be hastened by an early BP statement setting out the board's new policy.

Southern Water

WILLIAM Courtney, the chairman of Southern Water, could scarcely have picked a better day to remind the market of his company's income attractions. With "dividend cut" the term on everyone's lips in the square mile in the wake of Robert Horton's departure from BP, shares with "safe" dividends were in renewed demand.

In pumping up its annual distribution 10.2 per cent to 19.5p, with recommendation of a 13p final, Southern more than matched most of its rivals and underlined the group's particular strength in what is a defensive sector.

The results held no great surprises, but were none the worse for that. Even after stripping the £15.1 million pre-tax profit of the £6 million exceptional surplus made on the sale of the group's minority holdings in three water companies to the French, the increase was still in excess of 12 per cent. A less cautious board might have stretched to an even bigger hike in the dividend. About £7 million of the

Loss-making Bett axes its interim dividend

BETT Brothers, a Dundee-based developer and housebuilder, stayed in the red in the six months to February 29, and is passing its interim dividend. The shares plunged 18p to 65p. The group was forced to make substantial provisions against an ill-starred South of England commercial property venture, which more than wiped out the operating profit of £2.2 million. Exceptional items totalled £8.41 million, leaving a pre-tax loss of £7.52 million (£513,000 profit). There was, however, a loss of £8.3 million in the second half of last year.

Iain Bett, chairman, said a recovery programme was under way; an important step had been the recently agreed sale of Victoria Tower, in Aberdeen, for £7.5 million. The main businesses had traded profitably since February.

Torday division for sale

TORDAY & Carlisle, the Tyneside engineering group, has put its loss-making Oldham Signs subsidiary up for sale and is planning a strong push into the Continent. The company plans to take the car-plating business of DMI, the diesel engine and marine business. Into Continental Europe and is keen to expand the existing European distribution network of its Elfab-Hughes subsidiary. The sale of Oldham Signs, which made a loss of £1 million last year, will help fund the expansion.

Camellia falls back

CAMELLIA, an investment company with interests in fine art and tea plantations, saw pre-tax profits decline to £13.1 million (£20.4 million) in the year to December 31. Turnover slipped to £163.9 million (£181.2 million). A final dividend of 16p (nil) makes 27p (25p) for the year. Camellia has a collection of historical manuscripts for investment purposes and runs tea plantations in America and India. Turnover was affected by adverse exchange rates.

Sixth rise for Syltone

A SHARP fall in interest charges helped Syltone, the Bradford transport engineering group, to raise profits for the sixth year running. Interest payable fell to £216,000 (£344,000), lifting pre-tax profits to £2.87 million (£2.73 million) for the year to end-March. Turnover was £34.97 million (£33.67 million). A final dividend of 6.3p (6p) a share makes 9.45p (9p) for the year. Trading profits were hit by a setback at Rotocold, the vehicle leasing and air conditioning subsidiary.

Vistec lifts profits

VISTEC, the computer services company, increased pre-tax profits to £2.7 million (£1.76 million) in the year to April 30. Turnover increased to £32.3 million (£31 million). Earnings per share rose to 1.52p (0.95p). An unchanged 0.2p final makes 0.3p (0.2p) for the year. The company repaid £2.5 million in medium-term debt during the year and increased cash balances from £1.71 million to £4.37 million. Vistec is stepping up its search for acquisitions.

Marling calls for cash

MARLING Industries, a manufacturer of industrial textiles and vehicle bodies, announced a £19.3 million rights issue after making an £11.9 million pre-tax loss in the year to March 31. Four new shares, at 15p each, are offered for each existing one. The proceeds will be used for working capital and to redeem outstanding convertible preference shares. Preference shareholders have agreed to waive both arrears of dividends and the next dividend, due on June 30.

Lasmo settles for less

ULTRAMAR Corporation shares are being offered at \$15 each, a discount of at least \$4 on the price Lasmo originally sought for its interest in the North American downstream assets acquired from the £1.2 billion hostile takeover of Ultramar. Net proceeds of the offer will total \$865 million. Following the share offer, Lasmo will have raised \$1.23 billion from the disposal and operation of Ultramar's downstream businesses. Lasmo shares rose 1p to 177p.

British Land links

BRITISH Land has joined with Bank Julius Baer, the Swiss merchant bank, to launch a credit service for institutions and private investors trading in the London stock market. The service will be run by Shore Capital Finance, a subsidiary of Shore Capital Group, which is 40 per cent owned by BL. Bank Julius Baer is providing a "multi-million pound" credit line for an initial period of three years. Shore Capital will lend up to 70 per cent of bargain value at 14 per cent APR.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"I understand that I am sometimes compared with Robert Maxwell, but to believe that you would have to believe that there is some chance that we at the Telegraph — or me in particular — were sitting here doing things that would lead straight to a jail cell..."

Conrad Black, interviewed in The Sunday Times Business tomorrow

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Davis

The rise and rise of a natural salesman

Carol Leonard charts the progress of Reed International's chairman from the stores to the boardroom

The Queen is supposed to be able to do it. So too could Margaret Thatcher. Some people say it is because they have such good advisers. Peter Davis, the chairman and chief executive of Reed International, can do it too. Far from being prompted, however, he leaves his advisers speechless. For he never forgets a name, a face, where it was you last met or the subject discussed.

"It's quite extraordinary," says one of those advisers, Jan Shawe, Reed's director of corporate communications. "He'll introduce you to someone you think you've never met before and say 'Yes, you remember, you met them four years ago at so-and-so's, they used to work for such-and-such.'"

Peter Davis, 50, wears his well covered 6ft 3ins frame into a small, upright leather chair. He is a large man — "My weight is a sensitive subject, I'm a stone more than I should be but a stone less than my top weight" — in a large office, furnished with two full-size sofas, a big, functional desk and a huge modern oil painting, in orange and yellow, by Albert Irvin. "Yes I do have a very good memory for certain things," he says. "I'm very good at remembering people and connections but ask me about last year's figures and I won't have a clue. I will, however, know how to find out."

The secret to understanding Peter Davis is to realise that, above all else, he is a so-called people person, a natural salesman, talkative, approachable and interested. When he started his first job with a small engineering company, as a 17-year-old school leaver, with two A levels, his boss said: "You are not an engineer and you talk a lot so you had better be a salesman." It is that obvious interest in people that makes him so different.

Shawe agrees. "He is terribly curious about people, he notices everything about them, and I mean absolutely everything." In his previ-

ous job at J. Sainsbury — where he was assistant managing director of Sainsbury and deputy chairman of Homebase — he was, she says, "Known for fixing people with what they called the gimlet stare."

That penetrating stare is, according to colleagues, his way of indicating displeasure. He also uses it — covertly if he can — when he meets someone for the first time. It is as if he has fixed you with a laser beam, is stripping all your details from you, and, in one continuous process, committing them to his memory banks for all time. Davis is emotional — "More than I probably admit, I find it difficult to drive along The Strand at night, for instance, with all those people sleeping in cardboard boxes" — has presence and charisma, but is not known to be temperamental. That gimlet stare is as far as he needs go.

"I have never seen him lose his temper," says Sir James Blyth, chief executive of Boots, who once worked with and for Davis when they were product managers at General Foods. "He is no different at work or at home. If you have met Peter once you have met him a thousand times. Fundamentally he is a pretty nice guy, very bright but not ruthless. Of course he could be if he had to be, he is not soft, but it does not come naturally to him, he is a genuinely caring person. If he had to close something down he would worry about it for several nights beforehand. He gets a tremendous amount of support from the people he works with because he is kind and fair."

In the past two years, Reed, which has survived the recession better than most, has laid off 2,500 people, more than 20 per cent of its workforce. Davis admits that the redundancy programme did cause him to worry but denies that he suffered too many sleepless nights. "I try to compartmentalise home and business life. If I take a briefcase home my wife tries to make sure that I don't open it." When redundancies, sackings or



A private life: Peter Davis in relaxed mood — but he refuses to have his wife or children photographed

closures are necessary, however, he prides himself on always pulling the trigger in person. "When we got rid of our legal department here I called them all in, including the secretaries and support staff and told them what we were doing. I believe in leading from the front." For all that warmth and compassion, Davis is, however, surprisingly restrained. Blyth, one of his closest male friends — he is godfather to Davis's daughter and Davis's wife Sue is godmother to Blyth's — would normally be greeted by Davis with "a handshake and a teasing remark", never an arm around the shoulder. The initial impression he creates might lead one to expect it but he is not, in fact, a tactile man.

Davis also refuses to disclose the names of his three children, aged 21, 20 and 15, or to be photographed with his wife. "I think children are at enough of a disadvantage if they have a successful father without being identified." And although his chauffeur-driven Bentley represents "the fulfilment of a schoolboy dream", he is, he says, wary of taking it to his

daughter's school. "People do react differently to you if you are in a car like that. You have to be careful about such things." Again, contrary to what one might initially expect, he is a man who always stops and thinks before he acts.

Davis, therefore, is a man given to consideration and his thoughts are often characterised by their originality. In business circles he is noted for his flair and clarity of vision. In the six years he has been chief executive of Reed — salary £390,000 last year — he has refocused the group, concentrating on publishing and selling its interests in paper and packaging. He has often been quoted as saying that you should concentrate on what you do best.

Indeed, so clear is his vision that when he was 22, Davis told his boss, in that small engineering company, that he wanted to be the chief executive of a big company by the time he was 50. He achieved it with six years to spare.

As for those original thoughts, Davis encourages aspiring executives to stray from conventional career paths. "I think you should decide what you want to do and go for it," he says. "Don't always do what is expected." He describes his own career as having "lurched in different directions, and I have often taken a reduction in salary and position to move in a new direction." One such change came when he sent a letter, out of the blue, to David Sainsbury requesting a job. He was then 34 years old. A year later he was on the board.

Perhaps as a consequence, Davis now makes a point of reading all letters addressed to him, especially those seeking employment. "Unfortunately I get an awful lot of them at the moment but every so often one letter will jump out at you as being a bit different. Every couple of months I will meet one of those people and maybe give them a job." He is a rare chief executive indeed.

His unconventional approach has sometimes taken personnel professionals by surprise. When interviewing graduates for Sainsbury his favourite question was to ask them to describe the last meal

they had eaten in a restaurant. "If they weren't interested in food, what was the point of them working for a food company? I wanted them to talk with enthusiasm, to salivate." Davis would be salivating too. He loves food "and large quantities of it. I can enjoy anything from a cheeseburger at McDonald's to a meal at Le Souffle." But his favourite meal is the steak-in-a-bun served at his local pub, accompanied by a glass of good claret. He mentions that he sent both his sons on a cookery course at Pru Leith's school and also on a typing course. "I think it is essential for everybody to be able to use a word processor in this day and age."

Davis is also an outspoken advocate of the combined role of chairman and chief executive, an unfashionable viewpoint and one, in this instance, based largely on personal desire. "I like aspects of both," he says. "I like the operating side and the thrill of operating costs and new products but I also like tackling strategy. There is no one answer for all companies at all times. It's up to the board of that

company to decide how to run that company and for the shareholders to shout if they don't like it. It's important to have a good strong board of directors so that they can stand up and say, 'Hang on, you can't do that', which mine do often."

Davis likes the directness of that approach. He is, he points out, a northerner — born and brought up on Merseyside, his father, a cotton trader-turned-stamp dealer, was a local man and his mother Dutch. "I like the openness and directness of northerners." He still remembers vividly his three-month "induction course" in his first job. "They decided that the only thing to do with a public schoolboy (Shrewsbury) was to put him in the engineering stores in a brown coat. I learned an awful lot of swear words."

As a schoolboy he was not the sort of child who would have sworn. He recalls himself as being "plump with glasses, not very good at games, not particularly bright," but a keen sailor and an enthusiastic actor.

He also had political leanings and was a prominent member of the Young Conservatives. He now dislikes discussing politics in public, hiding behind the excuse that Reed is a non-political company and makes no political donations. He says, however, that he voted Conservative in the last election, and that "after a lot of soul searching" he was one of the signatories to Sir Allen Sheppard's letter to *The Times* before the last general election, urging people to vote Conservative. He was, he says, at one stage an active Liberal, but then became a Tory wet.

His "wet" leanings are perhaps reflected in the number and nature of his external activities. His list of seven active non-Reed roles include chairmanship of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, vice chairmanship of the financial development board of the NSPCC, deputy chairmanship of Business in the Community and membership of the council of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

If Davis had not become a businessman, what other career might he have pursued? Shawe suggests a vicar. "No, I wouldn't have been able to live on the stipend," is Davis's response. Blyth agrees. "He is too much of a political animal for that. I think politics has always been close to his heart. He would have made a good politician." But, as Blyth would readily admit, a politician's salary of £30,000 would also have turned out to be far too small, for any length of time, for such a big man.

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Talk it up, talk it down and make yourself an instant millionaire

LOOK, if I tell you something will you promise to keep it under your hat. Promise now, not a word to anyone? You see, it could be just a teeny bit embarrassing if the news gets out too soon. You know the sort of thing — all those begging letters from Lloyd's names and BP shareholders, strange men turning up on penny-farthings, business propositions from Irish aircraft leasing companies. All best avoided if possible.

So this is a secret between you and me, you understand. Because the fact is I think I'm on to a real winner, a killing, a result — call it what you will. But whatever you call it, the bottom line is "I'm going to be rich!" Let me explain. The whole thing began a few months ago when the course of my pre-creative, warm-up exercises for this column (my video, *Columbus: The Bitch and Sigh Diet* will be in the shops soon) was interrupted by a phone call. Sweating slightly after 50 leader page turns (sorry, you'll have to buy the video) I grabbed the receiver. It was the editor's secretary. He wanted to see me... now.

No sooner bidden as they say. "Sit down," came the command. I sat. "Now Bond, about this Weekend column..." Much of what followed I am ashamed to admit rather passed over my head, but the odd phrase left me in no doubt as to the direction the monologue was taking. "Corporate rethink... shift in strategy... global reorientation... core businesses... slimming down... peripheral activities... divestments." He had said it. Weekend was to be divested.



"So Bond, do you think you've got what it takes? It's down to you now."

My mouth opened, but no words came out. Quickly I switched my mind to rewind, in search of some explanation for this dramatic turn in events. "Selling opportunity... buying opportunity... funds available... knock-down price... management buyout." Management buyout — the magic words. Slowly and gloriously the confusion cleared. I was to be an owner.

The delicate problem of the consideration was quickly settled. He wanted a tender for the column, but a quick turn-out of pockets confirmed my total resources at two quid. "A fiver and I'll even wrap it up," he compromised. Two minutes and a sprint round the office later, we had a deal. For my £2 I had 94 per cent, while three colleagues paid a pound for 2 per cent stakes. Well, it was my idea.

That, as I said, was a few months ago. Since then, well, to be honest, since then nothing very much has changed. True each paperclip and ballpoint is now assiduously accounted for and true we did shed research and development after an independent consultant pointed out how many more columns could be written unencumbered by facts. But these minor changes apart, life carries on pretty much as normal.

Or at least it did until a fortnight ago when an old acquaintance from university — now something in the City — rang. "Corporate finance... smaller companies... investor demand... economic recovery... earnings growth... previous years... restated profits... stock market float... millions."

I pulled him up: "How many millions?" "Well, by my calculations and assuming a following wind, I'd say about £27 million. Which, given the £2 you

paid for your original stake three-and-a-half months ago is... well, is a pretty average return for the sort of buyout floats we're handling these days."

Average it may be, but the phone has not stopped ringing since the news started to leak out. Had that David Coleridge on this morning, wondering whether I could help him with a little £2 billion problem he had at Lloyd's. Well, it was a beautiful morning so I backed a bunch. "Stick me down for a few million pounds worth of that catastrophe stuff, David. I feel good about the world. Be lucky."

Then someone called Bob Horton came on wondering if I'd be recruiting any non-executive directors. Sure, I said, as long as they understand who's boss. He hung up. A couple of minutes later there was a conference call with Conrad Black and Roger Gibbs to discuss matters of mutual interest. Diversify or die, we agreed, and each put the others down for a couple of million shares each.

The one sour point of the day, was a call from a journalist. "How do you respond to the suggestion that you would have to write 45 Weekend columns a week for the next 375 years to justify your 1993 profits forecast?" he asked. I told him.

Of course, I'm sure that my new-found wealth is not going to change my life or not once Knight Frank & Rutley has found the Dorset manor house that would set off my new position rather well. Oh, excuse me, there goes the phone. "Hello." It's my old friend from college again, you know the one who is handling the float. "What's that?"

"Market jitters... Tokyo nerves... New York nerves... London nerves... OECD forecasts... revised down... scaled down... yield gap worries... dividend outlook... scaled down again... recovery prospects... slackening demand... pulled in... definitely." Yes I see. Could someone get me Mr Coleridge on the phone?

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 27 1992

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Edited by Lindsay Cook

Binned votes can cost money

It was the massed voice of building society investors that brought about a change of policy on accounts closed to new customers. Before any ruling was made by the ombudsman, both building societies and banks that wanted to reassure long-term investors were putting in place measures to inform customers which accounts were offering the best returns.

Nationwide annoyed a large proportion of its investors at the end of 1990. Most of them contacted the society, newspapers and the ombudsman to complain of being locked into an account at a lower rate for 90 days or of not being told about a new instant access account paying a higher rate.

One member of the society tried to prevent it ever happening again by putting a resolution to the annual meeting of the society. Almost 90,000 members supported it but it was defeated by proxy votes held by the society's chairman.

However, the society has bowed

to that investor opinion. It improved its publicity last year and writes to members whose savings are in accounts closed to new customers when new accounts offering similar features are offered.

Just how long 'is new investor-friendly stance will survive must be of concern to all members. One way they can ensure that it is more than just a marketing gimmick is to elect their own member to the board at next month's annual meeting. All they have to do is find the form already sent to them by the society and send it off pretty quickly.

Societies do not have a very good record when it comes to helping members on to their boards. Those who succeed can be counted on one hand.

Voting papers from societies are not a junk mailing. One society stopped sending out proxy forms



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

automatically on merger issues because investors were complaining about receiving the mailing. Only a tiny proportion of its members bothered to apply for forms and vote. It may save money but it is not democracy.

Debt duty

Too many people are still struggling with large debts. The largest and most worrying of these debts is likely to be a mortgage, eagerly offered by a building society when times were

good and prices were rising. Now that the housebuying dream has turned sour, the same societies appear less than keen to help those they tempted into large commitments manage their debts.

Only a handful of building societies have taken the opportunity to help fund the Money Advice Trust, the charity set up two years ago to channel private sector funding into debt advice. One or two others have committed themselves to funding local initiatives like Citizens' Advice Bureaux. The Woolwich, the Nationwide, the Halifax, the Bradford & Bingley

and the Britannia all deserve an honourable mention. But what of the others?

There are about 90 building societies. They cannot have failed to notice the misery that a stagnant housing market creates. They only have to look at their own mortgage books to see how many of their borrowers are in arrears. If people are behind with their mortgages, it is a racing certainty that they will be in difficulties paying other debts too. Credit card bills, poll tax demands and utilities bills all have to be dealt with.

Building societies persist in arguing that they are perfectly capable of helping their own borrowers cope with their debt problems so they do not need to fund money advice centres or any other sort of debt counselling service. The unspoken fear is that an independent money advice

service may advise people to pay their electricity and gas bills and poll tax ahead of their mortgage.

This is a red herring. It would be an irresponsible debt counsellor who advised people in difficulties to ignore their mortgage repayments. The value of a counselling service is that it looks at people's debts as a complete picture and helps those in difficulties to decide how to use the money they have to pay off creditors sensibly. Experienced counsellors can give advice on how to negotiate smaller, regular payments for the most pressing bills, including the mortgage.

More building societies now need to help with funding. Demand for money advice is increasing and inadequately funded local counselling services are struggling.

Societies will not be allowed to lie low and hope the Money Advice Trust will go away. If they do not come up with money, they may find the government imposing a statutory levy for the funding of money advice.

Contents policies will offer more options and bigger excesses

Insurers to tailor home cover as costs climb

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE rapidly rising cost of home contents insurance is forcing companies to rethink the way the cover is sold. Several leading companies are looking at offering crisis-only cover or allowing homeowners to exclude their claims from their policies.

Homeowners would agree not to make small claims but would be covered for major losses, and in return their premiums could be dramatically reduced. Insurance companies say that cover for theft on an average contents policy accounts for half the cost of the cover. In some inner city areas, two thirds of the cost of the cover is for theft. The average theft claim last year was £800.

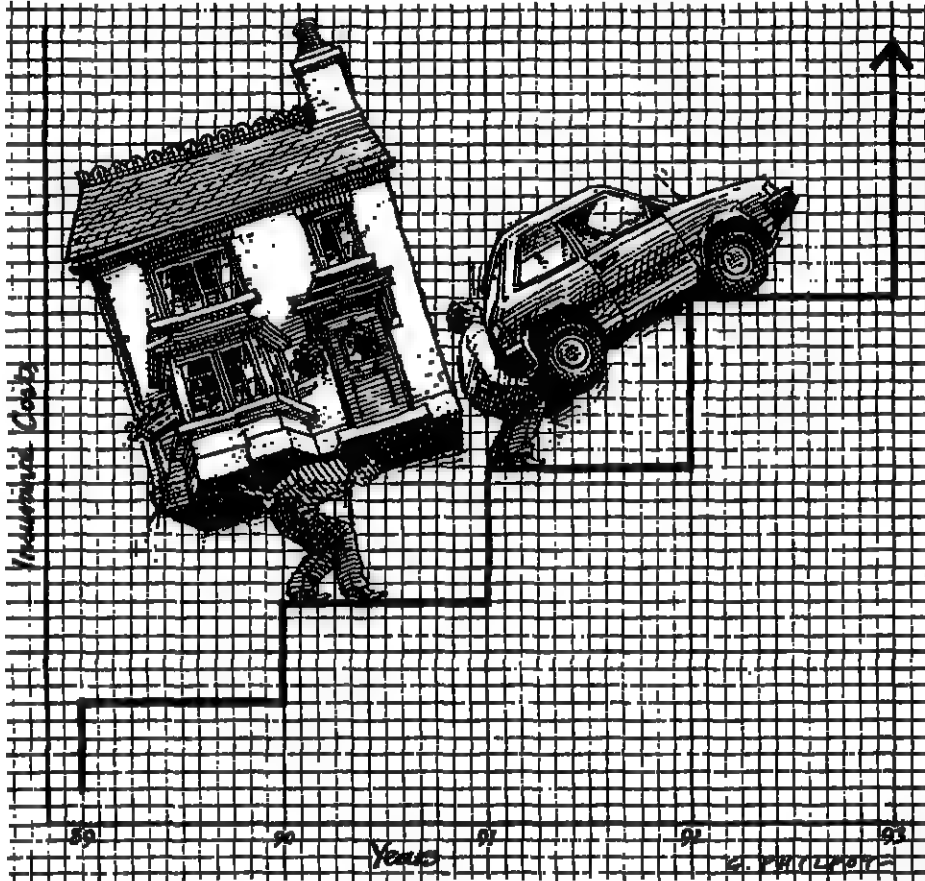
Those households that have never made a claim on their contents policy for theft may feel that they are willing to stand the risk themselves, while continuing with cover for fire and other damage.

Some of the policies which are being developed will operate like motor policies. There will be basic cover and motorists will choose what they want to add to it. Companies are also considering increasing the discounts for good security measures or introducing no claims bonuses for homeowners.

Another option will be to give policyholders more choice in the excess on their policy. This could allow homeowners to agree to pay the first £250, £500 or £1,000 of any claim, and to pay a lower premium to take account of the fact that the insurance company will need less claims administration staff and have a lower risk of paying out anything at all, the higher the excess.

Some companies already allow customers the option to have more than the policy's standard excess of £25 or £50. The reduction in premium varies then according to the part of the country in which the property is located.

Legal & General currently allows customers to reduce their premiums by agreeing to pay the first £100 of any claim. In the lowest rated areas that would normally cost £3.50 per £1,000 of cover, agreeing to pay the first £100 of any claim reduces the



premiums to £3 per £1,000 — a 14 per cent reduction. Those in the highest risk areas which normally cost £15 per £1,000 insured, can see the same 50p reduction on their premiums. For them it is a 3 per cent cut.

In February, David Prosser, group chief executive of Legal & General, gave a warning that insurance would only be for the rich if policyholders kept on making

'The problem has been around a long time. If theft claims go on at this rate people will not be able to insure.'

claims for theft at the rate they have been. Already, 40 per cent of households in high crime areas have no insurance. Often they are the ones most at risk of being broken into.

Rod Young, director of personal insurance at L&G, said: "The problem has been around for a long time. If theft claims go on at this rate people will not be able to insure."

He said: "We would like to

give more choice instead of a standard contract so that the policyholders can design their own cover like they do with motor policies. Maybe that basic policy would not cover theft at all.

"We are considering it. We would be happy to offer a policy with no theft cover. The average cost for theft cover exceeds the rest of the cover altogether. In central London, the part of the pre-

mium for theft is more than twice the remainder."

However, the company is worried that people will not understand the implications of taking out a "no theft" policy. It feels customers would be better off agreeing to pay the first several hundred pounds of any theft claim than to have no theft cover at all.

Other issues under consideration at Legal & General include giving bigger dis-

counts for good levels of security.

The company will be increasing its contents premiums soon.

Jeff Kehoe, underwriting manager of household insurance at Sun Alliance, said that the company already offered excesses to policyholders as a way of reducing premiums.

It was possible to pay the first £1,000 of any claim and reduce the insurance cost. On £40,000 contents in central London the premium could be reduced that way from £600 a year to £450 a year — a 25 per cent reduction.

Eagle Star already has a £100 theft excess on its motor policies, except when the vehicle is in a garage with an activated security alarm. The maximum it will pay out on theft of items from cars is £500 under a fully comprehensive policy, and £250 on third party, fire and theft.

It might allow policyholders to exclude cover for burglaries or combine higher excesses with more limited cover. Accidental cover is already an option with most policies.

PEOPLE whose car or property is considered high-risk could find themselves paying hundreds of pounds more in motor and household insurance premiums this year. In some extreme cases they may not be able to get cover at all, particularly if they attempt to change insurer to get better terms.

The Association of British Insurers said this week that the average family could expect to pay £10 a month more for their insurance in the coming year, because insurers had sustained record losses. Premiums have already gone up by around 20 per cent on average over the past year, the ABI said. However, young drivers with expensive cars, homeowners whose properties are in areas with a high risk of subsidence, or inner city areas where theft is a problem, will have to pay much more.

Insurers have already raised premiums substantially this year. Norwich Union calculated that in a case where several high-risk elements combined in one policyholder, the extra monthly premium would be nearly £100 for anyone renewing after July 1. A 29-year-old man living in a four-bedroom house in London's Muswell Hill, an area where there have been subsidence problems and where there is the usual high-

Postcode perils for high-risk premium payers

er urban risk of break-ins and thefts, and who in addition drives a sporty Ford Escort XR3i, would pay £38.20 a month more for buildings insurance, £41.10 a month more for motor cover, and £13.65 more for contents cover.

Householders or motorists who are considered high risk are likely to have to fill in extra forms or try several insurers before they find cover, as well as paying higher premiums and excesses.

Contents insurance is already calculated by postcode, with possessions in inner city areas costing the most. All leading insurers now use postcodes to calculate buildings insurance, charging higher premiums for properties in subsidence or storm-prone areas. They lost £540 million on subsidence in 1991. All companies insist that some particularly risky codes be referred individually. This is the signal for a much more detailed examination of the risk involved in insuring a home in a certain

street or even a section of street.

Steve Turner, superintendent of household insurance at Sun Alliance, the largest household insurer, said that out of 2,900 postcodes, between 80 and 90 came into the "refer" category. "In some cases we may want further information. We would send out a supplementary application form, and in rare cases we may need a structural survey. There are some roads we would know are problem areas." However, "nine times out of ten, these cases will be taken on on normal terms".

Sun Alliance will charge a higher excess of £1,000 instead of £500 in high risk areas. Eagle Star takes a similar approach, but charges £2,500 to higher-risk policyholders instead of £1,000.

Eagle Star's "refer" postcodes include London codes E18, NW10, SE7, SE13, SE19 and SE21, Peterborough codes PE11 and PE17 and Edinburgh code EH15. One Scottish excep-

tion in a mostly low-risk area is Aberdeen code AB41. The company said: "There are going to be pockets of experience where we will have to refer applications. It could be that in some roads, we will not pay out at all."

Insurers say that people should not, as a rule, change companies if their area has a history of subsidence. If there were a claim, there could be a dispute between insurers as to who should take it on.

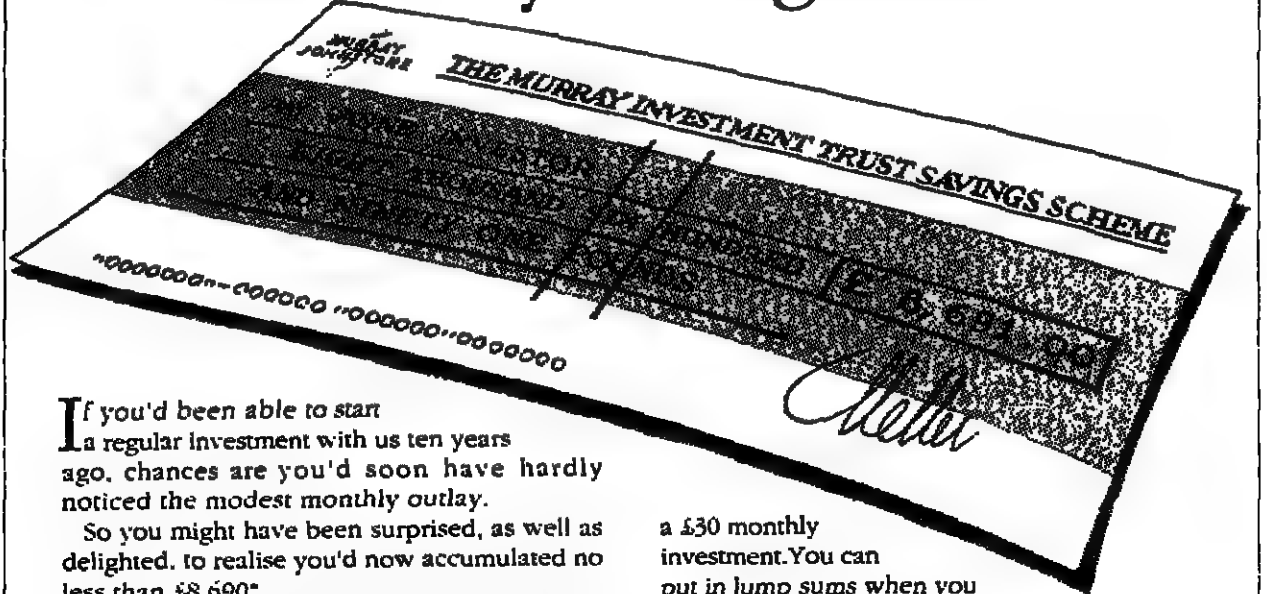
High-risk motorists looking for a new insurer will also find it difficult. Young men driving high performance cars like RS Turbos, GTIs or Ford Sierra Cosworths, may not be able to find insurance at all. Norwich Union, the largest motor insurer, will accept no new applications for insurance for the Sierra Cosworths or Lotus Carlton. Other high-risk models like Ford Sierra XR4s could be added to the list. Eagle Star will not take on anyone under 26 and will charge higher premiums or excesses to existing drivers if they have a young additional driver.

General Accident would also now decline new business from high-risk motorists. Norwich Union has increased the premium for a Sierra XR4 in Coventry by 150 per cent.

SARA MCCONNELL

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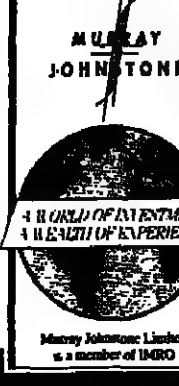
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MURRAY JOHNSTONE

New groups pinpoint motor risks

ONE third of all car owners will have to pay more for their motor insurance because the model they drive has been allocated to a higher-risk category in new group ratings drawn up by the Association of British Insurers (Sara McConnell writes).

The ratings will be officially implemented on Wednesday, but insurers have been given a "window" of three months either side of this date, between April and October. A handful of companies have used the new ratings when working out premiums for this year, but others have yet to include it in their calculations. Car ratings are just one element of a calculation which would also include the age of the driver, where the car is parked, and whether it is in a locked garage.

Previously, most companies used a nine-category grading system drawn up by the ABI. Group one contained the least risky makes, and group nine the most risky. There were big differences between the groups, and insurers had to bridge the gaps with extra loadings. Now there will be 20 ratings. An estimated 3,000 models of car, including all those available since 1975, are grouped according to how tempting they are to

steal and how much they cost to repair. Assessment of repair costs used to be based on a basket of spare parts, but now specific makes of car will be considered more expensive to repair than others. If they have design characteristics such as extra front lamps or engine computers vulnerable to head-on collisions, they will be classed in a higher-risk group.

Cars whose new group number is more than double its old one will cost more to insure than before. Charles Bell, marketing analysis controller at Norwich Union, the largest motor insurer, said that moving up one group would add around 5 per cent to the premium. Ford Escort Populars, moving from group one to group three, and Ford Granada Scorpio 24V, moving from group seven to group 15, are two of the models affected.

Among the most dramatic increases in groupings are the Ford XR3i, which has moved from group five to group 13, and the Ford RS Turbo, now in group 14 from group five. Both cars are considered high risk by insurers and are difficult to find cover for.

Those whose new group number is double or less than double the old group number will not pay any more for cover

because of the car that they drive. Most models in the Renault 5 range have moved from group two to four or from group three to six. Owners of Minis will similarly either pay the same or in some cases, less. The Mini 850 SDI has stayed in group one, meaning that it has effectively halved its risk rating. The Mini Clubman has gone from group two to group three, also reducing its rating.

However, Mr Bell gave a warning that any saving motorists might make on their car's risk rating would only alleviate premium increases, and they would still almost certainly have to pay more for cover. Norwich Union's premiums have risen by up to 30 per cent for those renewing their cover in July or August.

The new ratings are being included in premiums at different times by different companies. Those receiving their renewal notices now will probably already have had them taken into account, so the large number of people who renew their policies in August, when car registrations change and when they bought their first car, will not benefit from paying their premium early.

Motorists wanting to know the group rating for a car can telephone the motor department at the ABI.

WEALTH WARNING

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Lloyds refunds overcharged clients

Lindsay Cook says Lloyds Bank has found some customers have paid too much interest for years

NEXT weekend thousands of Lloyds Bank customers will receive letters saying they have paid too much interest. Soon after, their accounts should be credited with a refund.

The bank currently has 35,000 staff checking accounts to locate those personal and business customers that have been charged the much higher interest rates for unauthorised overdrafts when they had the bank's prior consent to go into the red.

Other high street banks are reasonably confident similar errors could not have happened on such a large scale. Individual errors might still have happened.

The Lloyds mistakes have happened in a large number of the bank's 1,908 branches although about 10 per cent of branches account for most of the cases, says the bank.

The bank first learned of the problem two months ago when it carried out an internal

audit. It has already paid back £10,000 to a business customer who found he had been charged the unauthorised overdraft rate, which at times had been as high as 37 per cent, instead of the authorised rate which can be as low as 16 per cent. His overcharging dated back five years.

The errors have mostly affected personal customers and involve small amounts of overcharging, says Lloyds. Business customers have accounts which should have spotted their client was paying too much and companies should keep a closer watch on outgoings than many individuals.

Because the overcharging goes back over a number of years, the bank may also pay interest to the customers concerned, especially where large sums are involved. It is already planning to be generous in the way it works out the refund. If a customer is found to have paid £26 too much they will be



Human factor: an internal audit discovered the errors were due to mistakes by staff

paid £30, said the bank. It will not know until July 3 how many people are involved or how much will have to be paid back. It says that 90 per cent of the problem is concentrated on less than 10 per cent of its

branches. In some branches only a handful of customers are involved. In others the numbers are larger.

The bank says there has been no problem with its central computer. Each case re-

sults from individual human error. Staff have not completed the procedures when granting overdraft facilities. Customers who applied for an overdraft facility when they opened accounts are not affect-

ed. It is those who did not need to go into the red at first, but later wanted the freedom to do so, who did not have their agreed overdraft entered into the computer system.

National Westminster said it did not believe it was possible for customers with an agreed overdraft to be charged the higher unauthorised rate. "But in the light of the Lloyds experience we are checking our procedures to make sure they are watertight."

Midland Bank said: "To the best of our knowledge nothing has come to our attention. We are very conscious of the importance of our systems." If any customer felt they had been overcharged their account would be checked at once.

Barclays believes its computer system for personal accounts prevents the higher rate being charged. This is now 37.3 per cent against 24.1 per cent for an authorised overdraft. On business accounts, in addition to the central computer system, a trail of the system should reveal if customers were charged too much. "It is a belt and braces approach to weed out irregularities," said the bank.

Wellcome puts a slice aside for private investors

By Sara McConnell

A TRANCHE of 20 million shares worth about £180 million has been reserved for private investors in the sale of shares in Wellcome. Robert Fleming, the sale co-ordinator, said this week.

The provisional size of the whole offer has been set at 330 million shares, valued at approximately £3 billion and representing about 38.4 per cent of the company's current issued share capital.

The minimum investment for retail investors will be £1,000. This would buy about 108 shares.

Julian Briant, corporate finance director at Robert Fleming said priority would be given to those who applied early, either through one of 90 brokers who have been signed up as retail selling agents or by filling in a public application form. An estimated one million people judged to be "high net worth individuals" have been sent a mailshot encouraging them to register.

Mr Briant would not say how many people had returned the reply paid card, but said it was above the expected level of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. Unlike recent privatisation sales, there is no priority for those who register before

applying. The Wellcome Trust, the charity which is selling part of its holding in Wellcome, cannot offer incentives like bonus shares because of its charitable status. The shares will be fully paid rather than in instalments like privatisation issues.

The price of the shares to be sold will be determined by bidding from institutional investors. After the bidding closes on July 24, a strike price will be worked out and shares allocated.

Mr Briant said the bidding process would eliminate some of the risk for private investors as they knew there would then be a market for the

shares. Cheques from private investors applying through stockbrokers should be sent to Robert Fleming by July 21.

Applications on public application forms should be sent to the bank branches listed on the back of the form at any time between July 6 and July 21. There is no guarantee that private investors will get the allocation they want despite having their own tranche of shares reserved for them. If there is a lot of demand for shares, it is possible that the size of the retail offer could be increased.

The minimum investment for retail investors will be £1,000 to buy 108 shares

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Season of mellow fruitfulness

In the fourth of her series on financial needs at different times of life,

Liz Dolan looks at the 'empty nesters'

DIANA and Roy Jarvis are determined to continue working when they reach retirement age. Mr Jarvis says: "I know I won't feel like shopping when I get to 65. Quite frankly, I'd be bored pottering round the garden or making model aeroplanes, or whatever it is you're supposed to do when you retire. If you have the option and feel well enough, why not? It will be worth it financially, and will keep me mentally alert."

An accountant, Mr Jarvis gave up his job with a large company to open a supermarket in rural Sussex when he reached middle age. Later, when their children, Mark and Shelley, had flown the nest, he and his wife sold up and moved to a thatched cottage in Dorset. They paid off the mortgage with money from the sale of the business, and Mr Jarvis took another job with a large company.

"Life being what it is nowadays, I was made redundant. Not a good position to be in when you're a few years off retirement." So he set up his own stock-taking business for

retailers all over the South of England. "That's why I don't have to retire. I can arrange to see two or three clients a week, and spend the rest of the time going out with Diana, doing some DIY or whatever I want."

Similarly, Mrs Jarvis, who is an artist, intends to be taking commissions well after attaining OAP status.

Because of his unconventional career path, Mr Jarvis's pension will be paid from a number of schemes, both company and self-employed.

Over the past few years, the Jarvisses have started to take an interest in the stock market. "I prefer a element of risk. It's more fun and there's the possibility of a decent gain." So, alongside privatisation stocks such as British Telecom, their portfolio also contains shares in more speculative ventures, such as mining and oil stocks, recommended by a bank manager friend.

In addition, Mr Jarvis made "a nice little turn" after investing in a friend's bus-



Making hay: Diana and Roy Jarvis under thatch in Dorset

AGES OF FAMILY FINANCE

INVESTMENTS

PEOPLE whose children have left home, but who have not yet reached retirement age are like manna from heaven for the average investor. Such "empty nesters" are traditionally perceived as those who have started to make serious money, with fewer drains on their income. This is also the age group that is most likely to inherit a useful lump sum.

In practice, of course, a number will have suffered redundancy, many have assumed financial responsibility for ageing parents, and others, usually women, are divorced or low income. And people who inherit a substantial sum of money are often confused about what to

do with it. Tony Lesser, a director of Wellesley Geller, the financial management group based in London, said: "A lot of people just shove the whole lot in a building society account because they don't know what else to do with it. For a higher-rate taxpayer, particularly, this is not a good idea, because of all the interest that will be swallowed up by tax. The best solution has to be to go to an independent financial adviser." An accountant or solicitor was a good place to start because, if they did not have the facilities in-house, they should be able to put clients in touch with a good independent adviser.

The type of advice will vary but there are a few consider-

ations that will apply to everyone.

He added: "Firstly, they must make certain that their pension needs are adequately catered for. Most people of 55 do not have sufficient pension provision."

Ideally, the key for all but the smallest of sums is to maintain a good spread of investments. By this age, most people will be looking to invest in a higher proportion of low-risk vehicles than their younger counterparts.

They will also want to make full use of any available tax relief. National Savings are useful for those who need to know exactly how much they can expect at a certain date. One of the new with-profit bonds that guarantee not to use a market value adjuster on encashment may also be a good idea. Bonds subject to such adjustments do not give good value if the bond is cashed in when investment markets are bad.

Though currently in the doldrums, the stock market is traditionally the best place to make the highest gains so, once basic long and short-term security has been provided for, this should be the next port of call. Once again, stockbrokers are likely to advise a mix of lower-risk blue chip companies and riskier stocks.

DEATH DUTIES

INHERITANCE tax avoidance has enormous appeal for people who have built up a tidy asset base over the years, and see no reason why the Inland Revenue should deprive their children of it.

Tax specialists insist that people who give away enough during their lifetime — and survive long enough to escape any tax claw-back — can get away with paying nothing at all towards what are still most commonly known as death duties.

Professional advice is essential here. It is a complicated subject, with plenty of scope to create more problems than it solves. For instance, people who wish to give the whole of their estate to their children well before they die must first consider what would happen in the event of, say, one of their offspring getting divorced. It is also no longer possible for parents wishing to avoid IHT to give their home to the children. If they do so, they will have to pay a full economic rent on the property.

According to Towry Law, the financial planning group, a popular solution is to make provision out of income to set up a permanent tax-free fund to meet the IHT liability.

A number of exemptions are available to IHT planners. One is the nil rate band, applicable to both husbands and wives. This is currently £150,000.

Another example is the annual capital exemption of £3,000. There is also unlimited lifetime gifting, which is free of tax if the giver survives for seven years. Certain people have extra advantages. Farm owners can now benefit from 100 per cent relief if they work the land, or 50 per cent relief if they are landlords. Funds at Lloyd's should be treated as business assets with 100 per cent relief.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

FEWER than one person in five receives any sort of retirement counselling, according to Knight Williams, a company that specialises in income for the retired.

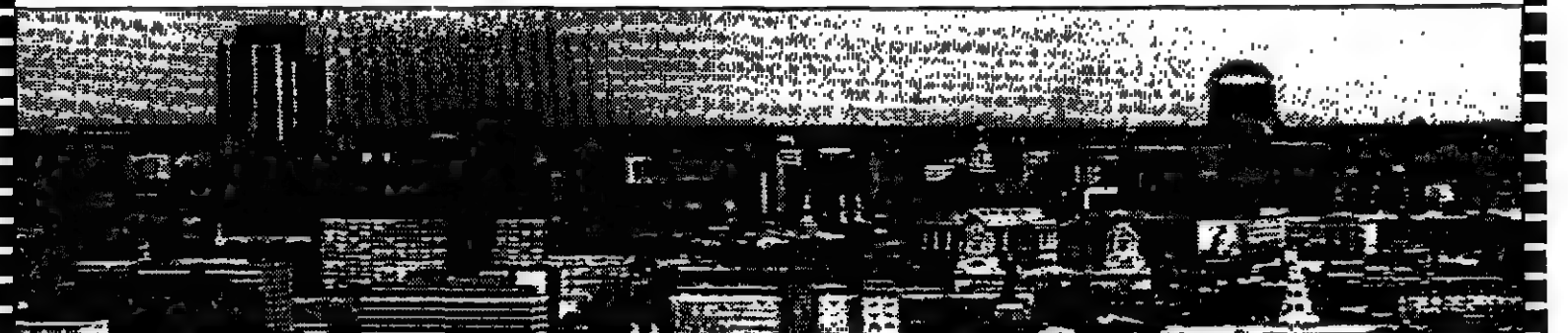
The company is one of a number of sponsors of the Retirement Trust, chaired by Lord Ennals, which will provide a free, one-hour talk on retirement planning for any group that requests it.

As well as advice on how to deal with the changing relationship with their spouses, the audience learns about fi-

nancial planning, DSS benefits, leisure, health and second careers.

Peter Stimpson, who runs similar courses for Towry Law, both for groups and on a one-to-one basis, said: "The most important first step when planning for retirement is working out a budget. We get people to estimate how much they will need, and how much they can expect to get by way of pensions, savings and so on. Then we advise on how they can maximise their income."

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CAPITAL
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starting to come out of recession, inflation remaining low and the stock market already showing healthy advances these same blue-chip UK companies should be amongst the first to benefit from the economic uplift. However, as you know, an investment in the stock market can go down as well as up.

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AAM STANDARD LIFE	+58.99%	1	Laureston T.I. Tr Int Bond	+28.88%	11
AAM CLERICAL FUND	+45.32%	2	MGM Bond Growth Acc	+28.63%	12
AAM MIN ALLIANCE FUND	+39.99%	3	Irish Life General Sec Inv	+28.14%	13
Growth & Sec Landbank Sec Acc	+38.73%	4	Horwath's Managed Fund 1	+27.36%	14
RH Bond Manager	+37.14%	5	X Argon 52 Enc. Marine Fund	+26.83%	15
Family Concentrated Growth	+33.92%	6	RH Personal Manager	+26.54%	16
Growth & Sec Flexible Finance	+30.06%	7	Providence Special Market Acc	+26.10%	17
Laureston T.I. C. Sec Inv	+29.36%	8	Clarendon Med Mkt Mgmt	+25.53%	18
Growth & Sec G. & S. Super	+29.30%	9	General Portfolio Perpetual	+24.87%	19
Astra Life Super	+28.96%	10	Liberty Life Managed Bond	+24.95%	20

Top 20 out of 336 Managed Life Funds analysed. This table is based on bid prices and excludes the effect of any external fees. Source: Hargreaves & Hargreaves. Selection of funds is based upon the Financial Times Forecast Managed Life Fund Classification plus AAM Managed Funds. This is a bulk marketing facility.



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Ombudsman acts over closed account rates

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR



Consistent policy sought: Stephen Edell, the building society ombudsman

BUILDING societies paying "unduly low" rates of interest to investors with money in closed accounts were warned this week by Stephen Edell, the ombudsman, they may have to pay compensation.

Even if the societies give sufficient publicity in branches and newspaper advertisements to the rates on accounts closed to new investors, they may still fall foul of the ombudsman's scheme.

Mr Edell, who published his annual report this week, said: "We should make it clear that we feel that it is possible that the payment of unduly low interest rates on closed accounts may be held to be unfair, even if adequate publicity is given about the rates." No cases had been decided on the issue, he said.

The rates of interest paid on obsolete or closed accounts were the subject of most complaints to the ombudsman, accounting for 1,289 out of 9,525. Of these 304 became cases. Many were Nationwide customers unhappy at being held in a 90-day account for 90 days at a lower rate of interest than new investors in the Bright Horizons 90-day account. Mr Edell ruled those in 90-day accounts must expect to wait for the 90 days to expire before they moved their money. But he ordered the society to make a payment to a customer in an instant access account of the difference between old and new rates.

Since the ruling in January, Nationwide has said it will allow immediate transfers on notice accounts when it re-launches similar accounts paying more. Other societies and banks, aware of investors' feelings have developed free investment helplines.

Mr Edell has not issued precise guidelines on what building societies should do to ensure they give interest rates in new and existing accounts adequate publicity. Writing to all the customers in a particular account would be too expensive he said. Brochures in branches should be prominently displayed and

should include both the interest rates on closed and new accounts. He added that he and fellow ombudsmen Jane Woodhead and Brian Murphy wanted to apply consistent policy on such complaints. "It was wrong to say once an investor had entrusted his money to a society, responsibility for ensuring it was in the investment most suitable to him lay entirely on the society. It was equally incorrect to argue societies need take no steps to provide information to investors in closed accounts. We finally took the view the correct test, which is objective, is investors must be vigilant about investments; but to enable them to make an informed choice, societies should ensure relevant information about all accounts (and in particular

about interest rates on obsolete accounts) is reasonably accessible."

The ombudsman's scheme has seen a sixfold increase in complaints referred to it since it was launched in 1987. Top mortgage complaints in the year to March 31 were cases involving charges by societies to customers wanting to insure their properties separately.

Societies routinely charge either a one-off fee for administration or an annual fee or a combination of both to customers wanting to choose their own insurer rather than being covered by the block policies offered by societies. As buildings insurance premiums have risen steeply in areas at high risk of subsidence larger numbers of homeowners have opted to

get cheaper insurance from other companies. If the cover is similar to the policy it is offering the society cannot refuse borrowers the right to insure separately. They can levy a charge to cover the cost. Where this is above £25, the ombudsman's office requires evidence that the charge is legitimate and not a penalty.

Repossession cases doubled last year. Most of these involved disputes over the time it took for a property to be sold and the price it fetched. These cases were difficult to resolve in the current housing market. There were some cases that the office could not deal with. These were homeowners who telephoned when the bailiffs were virtually on the doorstep asking the ombudsman to intervene and stop a repossession.

CGT ALLOWANCE, MAY 1992

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in May 1992.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.686	0.694	0.527	0.447	0.383
February	—	0.578	0.597	0.515	0.442	0.387
March	0.753	0.676	0.592	0.501	0.440	0.385
April	0.719	0.653	0.571	0.470	0.426	0.388
May	0.707	0.648	0.566	0.463	0.424	0.387
June	0.702	0.642	0.562	0.460	0.424	0.387
July	0.701	0.633	0.563	0.463	0.428	0.388
August	0.701	0.628	0.549	0.459	0.424	0.384
September	0.702	0.619	0.548	0.460	0.417	0.380
October	0.683	0.613	0.538	0.457	0.416	0.354
November	0.685	0.607	0.532	0.452	0.403	0.347
December	0.688	0.603	0.533	0.450	0.398	0.344
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
January	0.348	0.255	0.166	0.070	0.027	
February	0.243	0.248	0.159	0.064	0.022	
March	0.338	0.240	0.147	0.060	0.018	
April	0.317	0.219	0.114	0.047	0.004	
May	0.312	0.211	0.104	0.043		
June	0.307	0.207	0.099	0.039		
July	0.306	0.206	0.099	0.041		
August	0.291	0.203	0.087	0.039		
September	0.285	0.195	0.077	0.035		
October	0.272	0.188	0.069	0.031		
November	0.266	0.178	0.062	0.027		
December	0.263	0.173	0.072	0.027		

The first month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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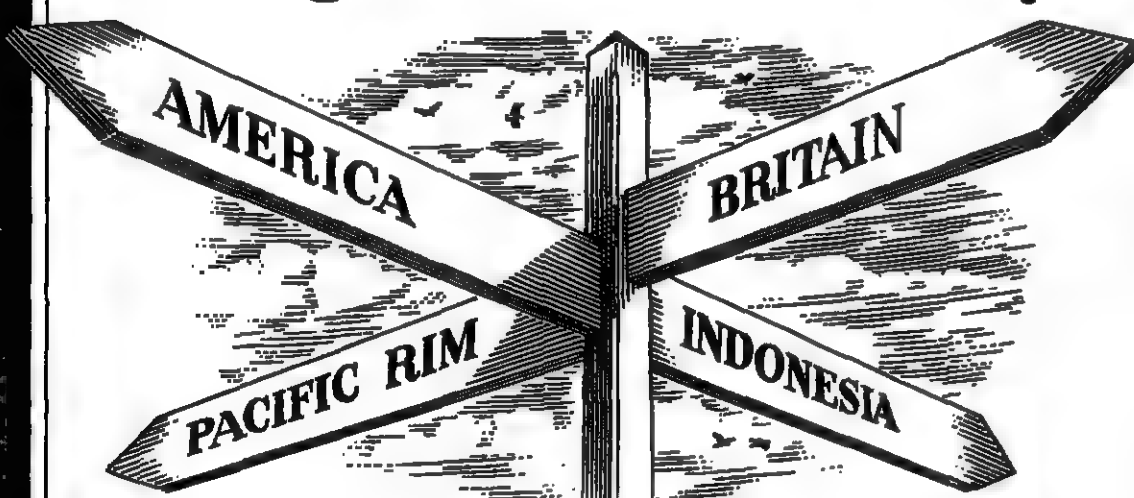
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 29).

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+8	-2	+3	+3	+6		
2	+3	-4	+3	+3	+3		
3	+4	-2	+4	+2	+7		
4	+8	-2	+7	+2	+8		
5	+4	-3	+3	+2	+8		
6	+3	-3	+3	+2	+4		
7	+4	-4	+2	+5	+5		
8	+8	-2	+5	+4	+5		
9	+3	-2	+4	+1	+8		
10	+5	-1	+1	+7	+8		
11	+5	-4	+2	+5	+5		
12	+4	-3	+5	+2	+8		
13	+6	-5	+3	+5	+4		
14	+2	-3	+3	+2	+2		
15	+7	-1	+6	+3	+4		
16	+3	-3	+4	+1	+7		
17	+6	-3	+6	+3	+5		
18	+5	-4	+3	+2	+7		
19	+3	-4	+4	+3	+3		
20	+6	-2	+8	+3	+7		
21	+5	-4	+4	+1	+7		
22	+4	-4	+3	+2	+3		
23	+5	-5	+2	+6	+4		
24	+2	-5	+2	+1	+3		
25	+7	-3	+6	+3	+5		
26	+5	-2	+5	+1	+8		
27	+5	-5	+2	+5	+4		
28	+4	-5	+2	+2	+2		
29	+6	-1	+7	+2	+4		
30	+3	-4	+4	+2	+4		
31	+4	-3	+4	+1	+8		
32	+4	-4	+3	+1	+3		
33	+5	-5	+2	+5	+3		
34	+6	-3	+3	+2	+3		
35	+7	-2	+6	+4	+5		
36	+5	-3	+1	+5	+3		
37	+3	-4	+4	+2	+4		
38	+4	-6	+2	+5	+4		
39	+4	-4	+3	+1	+7		
40	+4	-6	+2	+5	+4		
41	+7	-2	+5	+2	+4		
42	+4	-2	+5	+1	+6		
43	+7	-3	+3	+6	+3		
44	+8	-3	+4	+3	+3		

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*Source: AITC, N&S' total return, to 30th April 1992.
*Source: Money Management, mid mkt to total mkt, net income reinvested, to 31st April 1992.

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Endowment still right choice for some

RECENT cuts in mortgage rates mean that the difference between the monthly cost of an endowment and a repayment mortgage has narrowed. In some cases, endowments even appear cheaper.

For many borrowers this will mean that any further consideration of a repayment mortgage seems unnecessary, especially since there is also the possibility of a spare cash sum at the end of an endowment. But it is still very important for borrowers to compare their options carefully.

Last year, eight out of ten new mortgages were granted on an endowment basis. With this method, the borrower pays only interest on the loan, plus the premiums on an endowment policy. The endowment is designed to provide a lump sum to repay the capital at the end of the term. With a repayment mortgage, on the other hand, the monthly payments are partly interest, and partly repayment of capital.

Endowment mortgages have several attractions. Mark Hemmingway, of the Halifax Building Society, explained: "One of the major advantages of an endowment mortgage is that life insurance is automatically included, which is a great benefit to a family. It means the loan will be immediately paid off in the unhappy event of a borrower dying."

With a repayment mortgage, life cover must be purchased separately. Though it can be done easily and cheaply through a mortgage protection policy, not all borrowers bother. Mr Hemmingway added: "An endowment also sets a fixed repayment date for a loan. It means that even when borrowers move home and perhaps take out a second policy, their first endowment will continue to build up. It should enable them to pay off a substantial part of their debt when it matures at the end of the original term. Borrowers with repayment mortgages, on the other hand, tend to restart a 25-year term every time they move, to keep costs down, so it takes them longer to clear their loan."

He also points out the sav-

Helen Pridham on the battle of the mortgage schemes

ings aspect of endowments. "Over the past 25 years, with-profits endowments have produced very good returns. Though there is no guarantee these will be repeated in the future, there is every reason to expect that borrowers will be left with a valuable surplus after they have repaid their loans." He admits, however, that endowments may not be right for all borrowers.

The building societies have been accused of overselling endowments in order to boost their commission income. Most of the problems arise when endowments are surrendered early, and borrowers find they have little or nothing to show for several years' premiums.

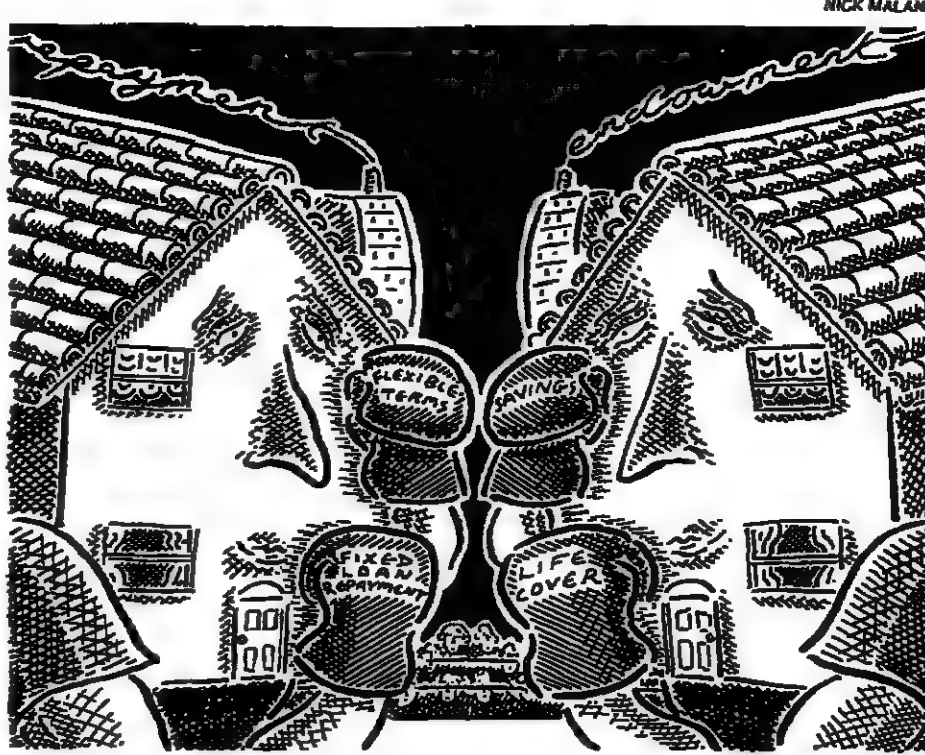
Ian Darby, of John Charcoal, the specialist mortgage broker, agrees that endowment mortgages have been oversold, but he also argues that they have been over-criticised. He said: "A single person with no dependants really does not need an endowment, or even a mortgage protection policy. For an older couple of 50-plus, the cost of

life cover is likely to make an endowment an expensive option. But for younger couples an endowment mortgage can make a lot of sense - providing life cover, savings and a financial planning tool."

He felt that most of the problems arose because endowments and the need to maintain premiums were not explained clearly enough to borrowers. "Some people are not even made aware they can use the same policy if they move house, which leads to some unnecessary surrenders." The advantage of repayment mortgages, however, is that each year a borrower can be sure that a certain amount of capital is repaid. They are also more flexible than an endowment, because the term can be varied.

To get full value for money from an endowment you should bargain on keeping it running for the full term. Surveys have shown that even if you surrender only one year before maturity you will only get an average of 77 per cent of the maturity value.

Mr Darby suggests that second-time buyers should consider such methods of mortgage repayment as personal equity plans or pensions.



COMPARING THE COSTS OF A MORTGAGE

Couple aged 28, £50,000 advance (all figures £)									
Mortgage type	Monthly payments	Amount repaid/surrender value	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Cost over 25 yrs	Net cost
Repayment	353	434	750	1,284	1,874	2,528	3,252	129,228	129,228
Endowment	342	448	—	656	1,240	1,850	2,390	185,128	112,628

*Premiums include mortgage protection policy

Source: Britannia Building Society

BRIEFINGS

□ BOTH men and women should both be able to claim a state pension at any time between the ages of 60 and 70, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) said this week. Responding to the government's consultative document, *Options for Equality in the State Pension Age*, the NAPF said that there should be a sliding scale of pensions, ranging from around £43 a week at age 60 to £93 at age 70 for an unmarried person. It also suggested that the state earnings related pension scheme should be available to men and women on a sliding scale.

□ Abbey National is to extend its first-time buyer discount offer until January 31 1994. New borrowers taking out a mortgage for under 90 per cent of the value of their property will receive a 1.75 per cent discount off the variable rate. The discount is 1.25 per cent for borrowers taking out between 90 per cent and 95 per cent of the value of the property. Borrowers have to take out buildings and contents insurance through the bank.

□ A 24-hour emergency assistance service aimed at taking the stress out of homebuying has been launched by Europ Assistance. Costing £16.50 for 12 months' cover, Europ Assistance will arrange, among other things, for a replacement removal van if the arranged van does not turn up on removal day.

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Use your vote at Nationwide

From Reverend V. S. Singh
Sir, Last year Nationwide Building Society "sawed" some £6 million by locking hundreds of thousands of investors into low paying accounts.

This year members can use their postal vote to try to ensure that the society is run as they wish: there is a contested election for two vacancies on the board.

Two candidates are retiring directors seeking re-election and two are candidates nominated by members.

Members of Nationwide, please vote!
Yours faithfully,
V. S. SINGH,
Manor Cottage,
Longham,
Dereham,
Norfolk.



Too many rebuffs over the direct approach to direct debits

From R. J. Post

Sir, In common with Mr Norman Clifford (Weekend Money Letters, June 6) I like direct debits. I never miss a payment and my creditors always get their money on time. I have entered into direct debits' arrangements for payment of community charge, water charges, electricity supply, telephone account, television licence, Royal Shakespeare mailing list. But the one

that I can't set up is payment of my quarterly gas bill. I note that Mr Clifford pays his gas bill by direct debit - how did he achieve it? South Eastern Gas just is not interested! Yours faithfully,
R. J. POST,
86 Ormond Drive,
Hampton-on-Thames,
Middlesex.

From Mr Peter Hayman

Sir, Downstream, at Bristol.

Wessex Water also profess not to be able to offer a direct debit facility to cater for quarterly metered water bills (as with Severn & Trent, reported in your issue of June 6). Did they each buy the same computer package? Or is a cartel in operation? Like Mr Clifford, I am irritated by their intransigence, for exactly the same reason.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HAYMAN,
7 Lord Napier Place, W6

Two opposite views on commission payment

From Mr Keith Mitchell

Sir, "Investors place too much trust in salesmen..." your article states. Unfortunately, readers also believe most things they read in newspapers to be true, when in many cases their attitudes and beliefs detract from pure objectivity.

A fine example of this is your assertion that IFAs are reluctant to advise clients to invest in a building society or National Savings. You base this on the false syllogism that such advice earns no commission, IFAs are paid by commission, therefore IFAs do not give such advice.

Most IFAs of my acquaintance seek to form long-term relationships with their clients. This would not be possible if a policy of short-term optimisation were followed. We ascertain full details of their circumstances and objectives, we advise the holding of such liquid and realisable funds as may be appropriate. Equally, we rarely advise the purchase

of endowment assurance (life insurance - I should have thought you would have known the difference), since there is usually more cost-effective protection and investment available. Steps which the Financial Services Act, and Fimbra in particular have taken to uphold the integrity, independence and impartiality of IFAs are not helped by the seemingly careless journalism of articles such as yours.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MITCHELL,
Alexanders, Independent financial advisers,
35 Regent Circus,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

From Mr P. H. Stallard
Sir, Thank you for your article on fees. I totally endorse and hope you will keep up the campaign.
Yours faithfully,
PETER H. STALLARD,
Chartered insurance practitioner,
Granby Cottage,
Bainton, Stamford.

French pension

From Mr Brian Shelley

Sir, As a follow-up to Mrs S. Meade's letter regarding the financial disadvantage experienced by her son upon his transfer to France.

We employ a number of British citizens in France and we pay 40 per cent of the payroll costs into the French social security system. We understand that part of this will go towards providing retirement pensions. However, if any one of our employees chooses to return to the UK, will they receive a pension, in whole or in part, from the French government upon their eventual retirement?

I would like to know if anyone has an opinion on this because we have been unable to get a clear answer.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SHELLEY,
Chief executive,
ICIS-LOR Group,
6 Spring Gardens,
Cradle Place,
Tunworth Street,
SE11.

Golden illusion

From H. Dinerstein

Sir, Dave Smith (Weekend Money Letters June 13) thinks that the Co-operative Gold Visa Card is the best card that it is possible to have.

I have no doubt his statement is true, but having spoken to numerous people who, like myself and my son, applied for a gold card and were refused, how does one obtain one?

It so happens that almost without exception, we all settle our bills on time. Perhaps Mr Smith would care to comment on this as, to my knowledge, not one of the refused applicants was given any satisfactory reason for refusal.

In my case, having been solvent for 30 years in business and being offered numerous loans from all sides (including my bank) why should I be refused by a third rate card company?
Yours faithfully,
H. DINERSTEIN,
6 Windermere Avenue,
N3.

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Barclays Prime	7.75%
Halifax Maxim	7.65%
Lloyds HICA	6.50%

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

Bank	Normal rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
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BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.85	2.85	2.12	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	6.84	6.84	6.47	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-628 1587
BSA	6.80	6.80	6.44	10,000-50,000	3 mth 071-825 1587
Lloyds	6.88	6.88	6.47	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.39	6.39	6.10	2,500-no max	6 mth Local Branch
Northwest	6.84	6.84	6.45	10,000-no max	1 mth 0742 528555
TSB	6.28	6.28	6.07	10,000-24,000	1 mth 071-725 1000
Wessex	6.08	6.08	6.37	10,000-24,000	3 mth 071-725 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland HIC	6.48	6.48	6.34	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Prime A/c	6.78	6.91	6.73	2,500	none 0804 252891
Co-operative	6.88	6.88	6.47	1,000	none 071 628 6549
Ulster	6.88	6.88	6.47	1,000	none 051 366 2078
Globebank	6.88	6.88	6.47	1,000	none 0272 433372
Lloyds HICA	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 0742 528555
Midland HICA	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 0742 528555
Northwest	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 0742 528555
Special Reserve	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 0742 528555
Royal Bank of Scotland A/c	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 071-558 8255
TSB Bank	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 071-558 8255
HICA	6.44	6.44	6.38	2,000	none 071-558 8255

BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share	2.85	2.85	2.12	25+ min	none
A/c					
Best buy - largest socs:					
Barclays & B	7.25	7.25	6.76	1,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & G	7.25	7.25	6.76	2,500 min	Postal
Northwest	7.25	7.25	6.76	40,000 min	30 day
Yorkshire	7.25	7.25	6.76	25,000 min	90 day
Bradford & B	6.18	6.18	6.08	30,000 min	1 year
Best buy - all socs:					
The Scarborough	7.25	7.25	6.76	1,000 min	Postal
Horsham Road	7.25	7.25	6.76	40,000 min	30 day
St Pancras	6.08	6.08	6.45	50,000 min	60 day
Teachers	6.18	6.18	6.08	1,000 min	90 day
Bradford & B	6.18	6.18	6.08	30,000 min	1 year

Cash/Cheque Accounts					
Halifax	1.99	2.01	1.01	90 min	Notes rise
Midland & L	2.44	2.44	1.95	95 min	with larger
Cash Plus	1.99	1.99	1.50	1 min	interest
First	1.99	1.99	1.50	1 min	

NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	6.00	6.37	5.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	6.00	6.37	5.10	5-25,000	1 mth 041-648-4555
Income Bond	9.25	6.84	6.85	1,000-50,000	3 mth 0253 69151
Deposit Bond	9.25	6.84	6.84	1,000-50,000	3 mth 0253 69151
30th Issue Cert	6.00	6.00	6.00	25-7,500	8 day 091-385 4500
Young Person	6.00	6.00	6.00	20-400/mth	14 day 091-385 4500
Children's Bond	10.00	10.00	10.00		
Govt Est Saver	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	8 days 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	10.75	8.06	8.45		

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Prosperity	8.25	8.25	7.10	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Financial Aid	8.25	8.25	7.10	25,000 min	2 yrs Chesley
Liberty Life	8.40	8.40	7.14	25,000 min	3 yrs Vero
Financial Aid	8.25	8.25	7.01	50,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5788
Aviva ULC	8.40	8.40	7.14	50,000 min	5 yrs for details

RPI (May 91-92)	+4.3%	Holiday rates	8 days
Bank Base Rate	10%	Specialist Posters:	177.50
Personal Loan	2.75	French Posters:	9.50
Credit Card	19.8-32%	Cheek Drawings:	344.00
		Italian Life:	210.00

*2.5% for balances below £250, then 2% of interest for balances of £250 or less. **Additional savings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of savings matured sale. ***Tax free interest taxable post grant higher rates for larger sums. **No longer on sale.

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

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Replacing DeFreitas is England's main worry



Cork in the running

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WITH an intriguing sense of the dramatic, England's selectors have chosen to reveal their team for next week's Old Trafford Test this morning, 24 hours earlier than planned but a mere few minutes before David Gower is due to take the field for Hampshire against the Pakistanis at Southampton.

As Gower remains the cricketing public's favourite son, warts and all, the suspense will give way either to an emotional rush for Test tickets or a wave of sympathetic outrage. Whichever way it goes, and my money sits reluctantly on the latter, Gower's fate will overshadow

all else, though in reality it may not be the most significant area of debate before this crucial third Test.

England are one down going into the likeliest stalemate of the five matches. Anyone who doubts this has not seen the Old Trafford pitch this morning. Five championship games there have produced four draws and almost 5,000 runs at 48 per wicket, an average which would be still higher had not Lancashire contrived to lose all ten wickets for 39 in the last two hours against Hampshire.

Peter Marren's pitches are a monument to excellence but a curse on the mediocre majority among English bowlers. Old Trafford is a no-go area for

trudgers who rely on the ball darting sideways off green tops and for slow bowlers who neglect to spin the ball.

This will not concern Pakistan's four principal bowlers, who tend to take wickets without demanding much of the surface, but it is a real worry for England, who have to bowl the opposition out twice in conditions sure to be less accommodating than those at Lord's.

They have to do it, moreover, without Phil DeFreitas, who has been consistently their most impressive seam bowler for a year now, and without Ian Botham, whose presence allowed them the attacking option of five bowlers. Neither man can be considered

while patiently well short of fitness and, in Botham's case, it really might be the final farewell.

Malcolm, Lewis and Salisbury, who shared the workload on that magical last evening at Lord's, and shared 14 wickets in the match, are all assured of retention, so long as the pain in the backside with which Malcolm is missing the championship game at Derby is as trivial as he claims.

DeFreitas's replacement, however, is not straightforward, because some of the candidates would be no better than cannon fodder at Old Trafford. Logical progression would give the place to Tim Munton but, as he relies largely on the ball seaming, a better choice

would be a bowler capable of at least rivaling the swing of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis. Three against the field are Newport, Cork and Flint.

Newport has rediscovered control and confidence and even appears to be bowling a yard faster than previously. He is also the country's leading wicket-taker. Cork's selection would be on the promise of his outswinger and the bonus of his batting. Flint would give the precious variety of a left-arm.

Once the fourth bowler is inked in, and I marginally prefer Cork, Ted Dexter and company must decide if they can risk a fifth, knowing that their only means of doing so are to bat Chris Lewis at six or to ask Alec Stewart to

keep wicket. Overburdening Stewart would be cruel on a man who has looked twice the player since being left to concentrate on opening the batting. Promoting Lewis, on the other hand, might just bring out the best in him and Old Trafford is certainly the pitch on which to do it if you are serious about trying to win.

If this is agreed, which I doubt, the positive sequel would be to include a second spin bowler, for this is the likeliest route to beating Pakistan in Manchester. Phil Tufnell is not yet match fit, so John Childs, who had taken 37 wickets at 21 apiece before yesterday, would be the choice.

The batting is not so complicated. With Botham out

of the frame, it may even be that further disruption to the top six is deemed unwise. Graeme Hick, though, must surely drop down to No. 5, if not six, and will probably have to bowl plenty of off spin if only one specialist slow bowler is chosen.

Lamb's form will have been discussed and there is certainly a case for him being replaced. But there is a legacy of great faith in him from captain and manager and this may give him one further match.

If so, Ramprakash's return will depend on the attitude to the balance of the side. Atherton will be obliged to wait and Gower will saunter out at Southampton this morning to a chorus of sympathy.

Waugh and Hussain break third-wicket record

Essex make light of Lancashire's flagging attack

BY JACK BAILEY

ILFORD (first day of three; Essex won 105): Lancashire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 477 runs behind Essex.

THE Essex travelling circus pitched tents at Valentine's Park yesterday. Long before the end of a hot, tiring day, Lancashire wished they had not bothered.

Anywhere, even that batsman's heaven at Old Trafford, was preferable to this; at least there they would not have had a fast bumpy outfield to contend with, while Essex ran up 510 for two from 87 overs, Mark Waugh and Nasser Hussain surpassing a 41-year-old Es-

sex record for the third wicket while making 347 of them in an unbroken stand before Gooch declared.

The statistics came rushing in, helter-skelter. Waugh's undoubted 219 was his highest score for Essex. If anyone doubted his affinity with Ilford, they should be aware that his last innings here, in 1990, was a quiet 204 against Gloucestershire which followed innings of 39 and 59 not out against Middlesex; and all that adds up to someone capable of filling his boots in the most gargantuan way.

Meanwhile, Hussain, with his share of 172, which had the old wisecracker recalling his

youthful prowess when playing for the Ilford club, now figures in no fewer than three record partnerships for his county. Watching him bat yesterday you could well believe it.

As if to prove that point, the Essex bowlers made batting look a more difficult proposition when Lancashire went out to see through the last hour. Fowler was put down at second slip off Foster; Atherton, less fortunate, was well caught behind off Ilford.

The feeling persists that Childs and Such will be an altogether different proposition from the Lancashire spinners, none of whom presented Essex with more than a passing problem.

Had Watkinson and Barnett switched ends earlier, it might have been a different story. The left arm of Barnett would have been operating from the Lake end, the end from which Martin had been bowling, when the ball stopped on Gooch, who presented mid-off with a simple catch. If there was anything in the pitch, the ball leaving the right-hander was the answer.

Gooch had looked in no trouble before that, though so demoralised did Lancashire become as he and Prichard made 100 from the first 20 overs, during which Morris suffered mightily, that it was almost bound to be Essex's day.

Gooch's 46 off as many balls was a delightful hour's oeuvre. Prichard's half-century, a solid homemade soup, before the main course of Waugh and Hussain. Strokes all round the wicket provided Waugh with a six and 34 fours. Hussain with 24 fours. The only possible chance one saw came when Waugh, on 110, nicked Fletcher close to slip.



Out of reach: Haynes, of Middlesex, glances a shot past Lathwell, of Somerset, at Lord's yesterday

Stephenson leads a Sussex escape

BY ALAN LEE

WORCESTER (first day of three; Sussex won 105): Worcestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 260 runs behind Sussex.

OFF the field at New Road, the local newspaper was conducting interviews about a perceived crisis in the camp. After two successive championship wins the timing was curious but sections of a disgruntled crowd were volubly agreeing with the claim before the end of a day when Sussex emerged with credit and Worcestershire with unanswered questions.

The pitch, not unusually for this ground, was uneven of bounce, excessively so while the ball was new and hard. Having taken the fifth Sussex

wicket at 131, Worcestershire should not have permitted them many more than 200, certainly not 289.

Franklyn Stephenson did play responsibly and skillfully for his unbeaten 87 and has already emphasised what a very shrewd signing he was for Sussex. But there was a dreary absence of originality about Curtis's captaincy, his tactics revolving around bowling Newport and Radford to the point of exhaustion and, incidentally, overseeing a deplorable over-rate of worse than 15 per hour.

To be fair, his faith in the new-ball pair was not unfounded. They now have 79 wickets this season, including 33 in the last five championship innings, significantly all on this ground. On yesterday's evidence, their figures owe something to Curtis's reluctance that anyone else should bowl.

Lampitt and Tolley were used in rotation but there was no work for Haynes or Weston, both promising young seam bowlers, and two England spinners in the side were also neglected. Hick did not bowl at all and Illingworth was given a token three overs before tea.

He returned in a double change, after 6pm, the Sussex ninth-wicket pair having added 65 against some increasingly weary offerings from Newport and Radford. Pigott immediately spearheaded Lampitt to cover and Salisbury was caught in the next over, evidence enough that Curtis had overbowed his mainstays. Curtis merits sympathy. He

has inherited the captaincy with the side at its weakest since the mid-1980s and has not been helped by a long-term injury to Dilley and a niggling one to Moody. The batting is thin, especially with Hick out of sorts, and he has taken much on his own slender shoulders, so far scoring more than a third of the team's runs.

Sussex are at a different state of transition, bordering on being an exciting side. The strokeplayers, Wells and Speight, were both out short by good balls yesterday and it was the dogged Hall who held together the top order with 59. It took him more than three hours but was technically admirable, as was the later commitment of Donelan and Pigott as the last three wickets added 109.

Snell, who had been quietly respectable in his first spell, was taken apart when he re-opened play after lunch. His first ball of the session was hooked for four. Before he finished the over three more boundaries scorched through the off and in 13 balls Gating hit him for seven fours and a two.

MacLennan briefly came in for similar treatment, but Maller and then Trump slowly steadied things. Apart from a tendency to stray towards or even outside leg stump Trump bowled splendidly. Half a dozen times Gating advanced only to be forced to play defensively. When impatience got the better of him, he succumbed, skying the intended drive to Caddick running back from mid-on.

Bishop powers way back to best form

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

IAN Bishop's fastest and most impressive spell since his recovery from the back injury which kept him out of the World Cup set Derbyshire on their way to a commanding position over Warwickshire at Derby yesterday.

The West Indian bowler swept aside Twose, Lloyd and Ostler as Warwickshire, after being put in, found themselves 18 for four. The fast-improving Dominic Cork then swung the ball about impressively to wreck the middle order as Warwickshire were dismissed for 121, Bishop taking four for 32 and Cork four for 41.

Warwickshire's hopes that Donald and Co could wreak similar havoc on a well-grassed pitch were not realised. John Morris, captain in the absence of Barnett,

played an explosive innings of 74 and Derbyshire went past 200 with six wickets remaining.

Allan Lamb's was the most spectacular of three Northamptonshire centuries at Luton against Glamorgan. He was unbeaten on 109, with a six and 14 fours, as Northamptonshire reached the close at 416 for two. Lamb had then been in for only 122 balls, needing no more than 30 for his second fifty. The way had been paved for him by Alan Fordham (137) and Robert Bailey (148 not out), who had shared a second-wicket stand of 206 in 65 overs.

No such excitement at Bristol, where Gloucestershire plodded to 305 for six against a much-weakened Surrey attack.

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Middx v Somerset

LORD'S (first day of three; Middlesex won 105): Middlesex have scored 355 for five wickets against Somerset.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings
D L Haynes 100 b MacLennan 54
M A Roseberry c Hardin b Trump 85
M W Gattling c Coddick b Trump 90
M R Ramprakash c and b Trump 18
J O Brown c Burns b Small 13
J O Carr not out 13
J E Embury not out 7
Extras (b 4, nb 1) 5
Total (5 wickets) 355
Score after 100 overs: 306-4.

D W Headley, N F Williams, P C R Tufnell and C W Taylor to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-218, 3-242, 4-288, 5-342.

LANCASHIRE: A N Haynes, M N Lathwell, R J Hardin, C J Taveira, G D Ross, J N D Burns, K H MacLennan, A M Maller, A R Coddick, H R J Trump and R P Small.
Bowling: Middlesex 4, Somerset 1.
Umpires: J H Harris and B Leadbeater.

Gloucs v Surrey

BRISTOL (first day of three; Surrey won 105): Gloucestershire have scored 305 for six wickets against Surrey.

GLoucestershire: First Innings
G D Hodgson c and b Gilling 88
C W J Athey b b Gilling 57
S G Hicks c Gilling b Murphy 46
A J Wright c Thorpe b Robinson 47
M W Haynes b b Gilling 46
R J Scott c Lynch b Murphy 5
R C Russell not out 42
M C J Ball not out 21
Extras (b 4, nb 3, w 1, nb 3) 11
Total (6 wickets) 305
Score after 100 overs: 289-8.

C A Walsh, M Davies and M A Babington to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-104, 2-115, 3-168, 4-211, 5-216, 6-287.

SURREY: D J Bicknell, A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, M A Lynch, D M Ward, J D Robinson, M A Butcher, M A Fellman, N F Sargeant, J Gilling and A J Murphy.
Bowling: Gloucestershire 3, Surrey 2.
Umpires: M J Kitchin and V A Holder.

Worcs v Sussex

WORCESTER (first day of three; Sussex won 105): Worcestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 260 runs behind Sussex.

SUSSEX: First Innings
D N Smith 100 b Radford 59
J W Hall 100 b Radford 59
N J Latham c Hick b Lampitt 218
M E Waugh not out 218
M P Spight c Hick b Radford 17
H P Morris c Rhodes b Newport 17
D J Stephenson not out 13
J A North b Hick 0
J T P Donelan c Hick b Radford 31
A S Pigott c Lathwell b Lampitt 20
D K Salisbury c Hick b Lampitt 0
Extras (b 4, nb 1) 19
Total (no wickets) 289
Score after 100 overs: 289-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-119, 2-247, 3-304, 4-130, 5-131, 6-190, 7-190, 8-226, 9-226.
BOWLING: Radford 27-5-77-4; Newport 26-17-5-3; Lampitt 21-1-16-3; Taylor 17-4-47-0; Bingham 5-1-7-0.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
G Fowler not out 21
M A Atherton c Gattling b Hick 2
S D Fletcher not out 2
Extras (b 1, nb 1) 1
Total (1 wicket, 14 overs) 33
Score after 100 overs: 33-0.

N J Spight, G D Lloyd, S P Titchard, M Waugh, N F Harris, D K Morris, P J Morris and A A Barnett to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26.
Bowling: Essex 4, Lancashire 0.
Umpires: D J Constant and B Duckless.

Northants v Glam

LUTON (first day of three; Northamptonshire won 105): Northamptonshire have scored 416 for two wickets against Glamorgan.

Northamptonshire: First Innings
A Fordham c Maynard b Croft 137
N A Fothergill c Latham b Wallen 148
R J Bailey not out 148
A J Lamb not out 109
Extras (b 1, nb 9, nb 6) 16
Total (2 wickets) 416
Score after 100 overs: 348-2.

D J Capel, K M Curran, J D Ripley, A R Roberts, G E L Ambrose, J P Taylor and N G B Cook to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-229.
GLAMORGAN: S P James, M Morris, A Dale, M P Maynard, I V A Richards, A R Butcher, D J B Croft, J C P Metson, S L Wain, D J Foster and S R Barwick.
Bowling: Northamptonshire 3, Glamorgan 0.
Umpires: J D Bond and J H Hampshire.

Essex v Lancs

ILFORD (first day of three; Essex won 105): Lancashire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 477 runs behind Essex.

ESSEX: First Innings
G A Gooch c Fowler b Martin 46
P J Prichard c Hick b Watkinson 218
M E Waugh not out 218
Hussain not out 172
Extras (b 14, nb 8, nb 1) 23
Total (2 wickets, 97.1 overs) 510
Score after 100 overs: 477-1.

N V Knight, D R Pringle, M A Garmann, A Foster, M C Joss, J H Childs and P M Such not out.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-163.
BOWLING: Morris 10-0-52-0; Martin 17-3-61-1; Fletcher 13-2-56-0; Watkinson 21-12-114-1; Barnett 26-11-1-0; Atherton 10-0-53-0.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
G Fowler not out 21
M A Atherton c Gattling b Hick 2
S D Fletcher not out 2
Extras (b 1, nb 1) 1
Total (1 wicket, 14 overs) 33
Score after 100 overs: 33-0.

N J Spight, G D Lloyd, S P Titchard, M Waugh, N F Harris, D K Morris, P J Morris and A A Barnett to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26.
Bowling: Essex 4, Lancashire 0.
Umpires: D J Constant and B Duckless.

Derbys v Warwicks

DERBY (first day of three; Derbyshire won 105): Derbyshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 128 runs ahead of Warwickshire.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
A J Mole 100 b Baze 59
R G Topley c Cork b Baze 59
T A Lloyd b Baze 59
D J O'Brien b Baze 59
D A Reeve c Brown b Baze 59
T L Penney c Kitchin b Cork 27
P A Smith c Baze b Cork 24
G C Small not out 24
A Donald c Adams b Cork 9
A A Donnelly c Adams b Baze 9
Extras (b 11, nb 16) 27
Total (6 wickets) 121
Score after 100 overs: 121-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-12, 4-18, 5-34, 6-52, 7-77, 8-94, 9-114.
BOWLING: Baze 18.2-7-32-4; Baze 15-2-37-2; Cork 13-2-41-4.
Derbyshire: First Innings
P D Bowler b Small 7
A M Brown c Donald b Smith 7
J D Morris c Donald b Smith 7
T J G O'Grady not out 58
C J Adams c Piper b Manton 58
S C Gokewill not out 58
Extras (b 12, nb 8, w 2, nb 13) 35
Total (4 wickets, 58 overs) 249
Score after 100 overs: 249-0.

HK M Kitchin, D G Cork, I R Baze, S J Baze and R W Staddon to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-86, 3-122, 4-194.
Bowling: Derbyshire 6, Warwickshire 1.
Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

Oxfordshire v Lancashire

OXFORD (first day of three; Oxfordshire won 105): Lancashire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 477 runs behind Oxfordshire.

OXFORDSHIRE: First Innings
J E R Gattling b Mather 59
J P Gattling c Mather b Mather 59
A M Mather c Gattling b Mather 59
R M Wright not out 21
C L Gonyer c Adams b Tame 27
T J P Arnold c Mather 9
M P W. Jeth not out 9
R M Pearson c Zaidi b Mather 6
B S Wood c Mather b Mather 6
Extras (b 4, nb 10, nb 9) 23
Total 327
Score after 100 overs: 327-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-28, 3-184, 4-220, 5-284, 6-292, 7-292, 8-310, 9-327.
BOWLING: Mather 17-4-47-1; Tame 15-2-51-1; Pearson 10-0-4, Adams 16-7-30-4; Wood 15-9-14; Mather 27-4-73-4; Shode 5-0-13-4.
Umpires: H D Bird and N T Paves.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
G Fowler not out 21
M A Atherton c Gattling b Hick 2
S D Fletcher not out 2
Extras (b 1, nb 1) 1
Total (1 wicket, 14 overs) 33
Score after 100 overs: 33-0.

N J Spight, G D Lloyd, S P Titchard, M Waugh, N F Harris, D K Morris, P J Morris and A A Barnett to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26.
Bowling: Essex 4, Lancashire 0.
Umpires: D J Constant and B Duckless.

Derbys v Warwicks

DERBY (first day of three; Derbyshire won 105): Derbyshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 128 runs ahead of Warwickshire.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
A J Mole 100 b Baze 59
R G Topley c Cork b Baze 59
T A Lloyd b Baze 59
D J O'Brien b Baze 59
D A Reeve c Brown b Baze 59
T L Penney c Kitchin b Cork 27
P A Smith c Baze b Cork 24
G C Small not out 24
A Donald c Adams b Cork 9
A A Donnelly c Adams b Baze 9
Extras (b 11, nb 16) 27
Total (6 wickets) 121
Score after 100 overs: 121-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-12, 4-18, 5-34, 6-52, 7-77, 8-94, 9-114.
BOWLING: Baze 18.2-7-32-4; Baze 15-2-37-2; Cork 13-2-41-4.
Derbyshire: First Innings
P D Bowler b Small 7
A M Brown c Donald b Smith 7
J D Morris c Donald b Smith 7
T J G O'Grady not out 58
C J Adams c Piper b Manton 58
S C Gokewill not out 58
Extras (b 12, nb 8, w 2, nb 13) 35
Total (4 wickets, 58 overs) 249
Score after 100 overs: 249-0.

HK M Kitchin, D G Cork, I R Baze, S J Baze and R W Staddon to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-86, 3-122, 4-194.
Bowling: Derbyshire 6, Warwickshire 1.
Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

Oxfordshire v Lancashire

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B S Wood c Mather b Mather 6
Extras (b 4, nb 10, nb 9) 23
Total 327
Score after 100 overs: 327-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-28, 3-184, 4-220, 5-284, 6-292, 7-292, 8-310, 9-327.
BOWLING: Mather 17-4-47-1; Tame 15-2-51-1; Pearson 10-0-4, Adams 16-7-30-4; Wood 15-9-14; Mather 27-4-73-4; Shode 5-0-13-4.
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M A Atherton c Gattling b Hick 2
S D Fletcher not out 2
Extras (b 1, nb 1) 1
Total (1 wicket, 14 overs) 33
Score after 100 overs: 33-0.

N J Spight, G D Lloyd, S P Titchard, M Waugh, N F Harris, D K Morris, P J Morris and A A Barnett to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26.
Bowling: Essex 4, Lancashire 0.
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P A Smith c Baze b Cork 24
G C Small not out 24
A Donald c Adams b Cork 9
A A Donnelly c Adams b Baze 9
Extras (b 11, nb 16) 27
Total (6 wickets) 121
Score after 100 overs: 121-0.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-12, 4-18, 5-34, 6-52, 7-77, 8-94, 9-114.
BOWLING: Baze 18.2-7-32-4; Baze 15-2-37-2; Cork 13-2-41-4.
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Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

In-form Lovell cheers students

BY RICHARD STREETON

FENNER'S (final day of three): The Pakistanis beat Oxford and Cambridge Universities by nine wickets.

THE Pakistanis spent almost another three hours yesterday to take the last seven Universities wickets, and the students finished with more kudos from the fixture than expected. The touring team was left to make 46 to win and, with a journey to Southampton on its mind, took only eight overs to do so.

Geoffrey Lovell, the Oxford captain, missed a century by four runs as he continued to resist the Pakistani spin bowlers on a turning pitch.

When the innings ended for 327, it had lasted 64 hours.

This was commendable resistance after the Universities had followed on 2

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1992

Thundering servers rule day at Wimbledon

Lendl finds his instinct for survival in time

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis CorrespondentSimon Barnes, page 1
Results, page 35
Fernandez bows out, page 35

ANOTHER old-timer stole the limelight at Wimbledon yesterday, Ivan Lendl taking a leaf out of John McEnroe's book by coming from behind to beat an Australian. But, otherwise, on a day dominated by the resounding thud of hammer on anvil, there were precious few echoes of the previous day.

The intricacies of McEnroe and Pat Cash, who between them served a total of 13 aces in just over four hours during their epic second-round match, were replaced by the more predictable patterns of grass-court tennis. Aces abounded, break points were like gold dust and the big servers predominated.

Lendl served 21 in his narrow 6-3, 1-6, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Sandon Stolle, and Goran Ivanisevic and Marc Rosset shared 37 in the battle of the titans on court 14. The one exception to the rule of brawn over brain was Richard Krajicek, who would not win a popularity contest in the women's quarters after his suggestion on Dutch radio that "80 out of the top 100 women were fat pigs".

He later reduced the proportion to 75 per cent, but might expect a rough reception were he ever to play mixed doubles. The thought of the storm to come might have affected the No. 11 seed's state of mind because he never seemed entirely convincing in his five-set defeat by Arnaud Boesoch. Krajicek, a semi-finalist at the Australian Open, is 6ft 5in tall, with a strangely boyish face atop a frame which would have survived the Great Trek, and the message from the brain — which Martina Navratilova, for one, might question even existed — takes a little longer to reach the outer limits of the body.

DETAILS

WEATHER FORECAST: Mostly dry with long sunny periods.
TELEVISION: BBC1 22.10-23.10 (highlights), BBC2 15.00-20.00 (live coverage).
RADIO: Radio 5 12.00-19.30 (live coverage).
ATTENDANCE: Fourth day: 33,246 — an increase of 8,542 on last year but below the fourth-day record of 38,640 in 1988.

than most. That extra split second makes him look awkward at times, his movement to the net being more juggernaut than Mini-Cooper.

If — and, often, it is a big "if" — you can get hold of his serve, he can be vulnerable. At least, that was the theory the nippy Frenchman was working on. For the connoisseurs of the serve-and-volley game, the first three sets were made in heaven. When a rally developed, which was not often, Boesoch came out mostly on top because he makes up for his lack of power with inventive stroke-making. More often, he was stranded, waiting for a chance to hit back.

He did not break Krajicek until the start of the fifth set, but had fed off enough scraps in two tie-breaks to stay level. "Geez", he cried out once as another serve whistled past him. But, having weathered the early storm, he turned slyer in the fifth set as Krajicek, who was slowed by a knee injury after a fall in the fourth set, began to lose heart. The Dutchman does not yet believe he can play well on grass and the lack of confidence showed at the death. Neatly and with increasing panache, Boesoch reached the fourth round for the first time at Wimbledon, winning 4-6, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

"It is very difficult to keep your concentration when the match is just serve, serve, serve the whole time," the Frenchman said. "It's very

boring. There is no game. But I'm pleased with the way I kept going and concentrated on my own game."

Midway through the fourth set, few would have given a prayer for Lendl's chances of surviving to his seeded position in the last 16. A service return which was still rising as it cleared the scoreboard summed up the No. 10 seed's lack of timing. There was no bite, no aggression, no spring in the step, no heart and, if Stolle, ranked 96, had but realised it and raised his game a fraction, he would have taken a notable scalp and, quite possibly, ended Lendl's obsession once and for all.

But enough of the former world No. 1's instinct remained to take a chance when it was on offer and, having won just two games in two sets, he broke with a backhand return, a rare gem these days, and levelled the match with two aces.

Thus reprieved, Lendl found a vein of form that has largely eluded him during a miserable year full of defeat. The serve clicked into gear — he lost just one point in four service games during the middle of the fifth set — and Stolle began to understand that his chance had disappeared. With one perfect service return game, vintage mid-1980s, he broke to lead 6-5 and served out smartly to earn the dubious privilege of a rendezvous with Goran Ivanisevic.

While the rights and wrongs of equal prize-money were being discussed, Stefan Edberg and Pete Sampras did the men's cause little good by dropping just six games between them. The Swede beat a South African qualifier, Grant Stafford, 6-1, 6-0, 6-2, the same score by which the Sampras, the No. 5 seed, outplayed Scott Davis. "I played flawless tennis," Sampras said.

An air of inevitability settled over centre court once Michael Stich, the defending champion, had tucked away the first set. His opponent, Magnus Larsson, is more at home on slower surfaces and had beaten the German on clay in Munich. "That was a few months ago and had no relevance to what happens here," Stich said.

Once ahead, the No. 3 seed soon had his mind on next week. "I am playing better percentage tennis than last year," Stich said after his 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 victory. "It's not as risky. But it's a nice feeling to be through to the second week. There are fewer players in the locker-room for a start."

Edberg, the No. 2 seed, now meets his countryman, Henrik Holm, who surprised Alex Volkov in four sets. Holm is a qualifier and has a mother called Gun. It was appropriate enough that, on a day of bombardment, the ultimate accolade should go to a true son of a gun.

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It would stand at Hillend in Edinburgh, where there has been a dry ski run since 1964. There are hopes to win formal planning permission for the scheme by March next year.

One possible planning objection to the scheme is "visual intrusion", which is

The battle of the big servers



Firing line: Rosset, left, and Ivanisevic matched their considerable serving power against one another at Wimbledon yesterday with Ivanisevic coming out on top of the high-altitude big guns



IAN STEWART

Aces high in the power game

By Rex Bellamy

WE HAD a press-room sweep at Wimbledon yesterday. The idea was to forecast the number of aces served in the clash of arms between Goran Ivanisevic and Marc Rosset (combined height, 12ft 9in). The total was a miserly 37, mainly because Rosset — whose service has been timed at 134mph — spent too much time finding the range and, whenever he did, kept losing it. Something wrong with the sights, no doubt. Ivanisevic won the third-round match, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Ivanisevic, aged 20, is ten months the younger. The Croatian left-hander advanced to the semi-finals in 1990 and this time is seeded to lose a round earlier. Rosset is a shambling Swiss Alp whose altitude brings to mind Dolly Parton's naughty joke that she was the only young lady from the Snowy Mountains to take them with her. A basketball coach might regard Rosset as stunted. But he is the kind of chap who, when someone a foot shorter asks if he plays basketball, can bounce back with: "No. Do you play miniature golf?"

It was appropriate that Rosset should play on the edge of Aorangi Park because Aorangi ("Cloud Piercer") is the Maori name for Mount Cook. Yesterday, the clouds were low. Rosset always looked troubled. He did serve 15 aces, but he also served ten double faults and threw in half a dozen foot faults. By contrast, Ivanisevic's tally of 22 aces was marred by only four double faults.

The crowd enjoyed the fun

FASTEST SERVES

THE technology used to measure the speed of serve at Wimbledon is much the same as that used by the traffic police to monitor the speed of cars. A radar head is mounted on the wall at each end of the centre court behind the centre line, about seven feet off the ground. It is programmed to detect only moving objects the size of a tennis ball so the racket does not interfere with the reading. As the beam hits the ball, it is reflected back to the radar head; the speed with which the beam is reflected determines the speed of the serve. The radar gun has been

used at Wimbledon since last year and it is used only on the centre court. So far the fastest serve recorded is the 134mph by Marc Rosset.

Fastest serves on centre court

Men
1. M Stich (Ger), 130mph; 2. G Ivanisevic (Croatia) and P Sampras (US), 129mph; 4. G Camporese (It), 124mph; 5. P Kuhnert (Ger), 124mph; 6. B Becker (Ger), 123mph and I Lendl (Cz), 123mph; 8. P Cash (Aus), 119mph; 9. J Elmer (Hol), 118mph; 10. S Pascosello (It), 117mph.
Women
1. M Seles (Yug), 107mph; 2. S Graf (Ger), 106mph; 3. M Navratilova (US), 104mph; 4. S Appelmann (Bel), 97mph; 5. M Maleeva (Bul), 97mph; 6. N van Lottum (Fr), 97mph.

sponse when Jack Kramer asked his opinion of Californian wine, which was of questionable quality in those distant days. "Jack," Chatelier said, "I can't find the words..."

Disrespectful though it might be (both men do their thing awfully well), it was easy to imagine Ivanisevic and Rosset felling trees with axes or ringing the bell at one of those fairground strength machines.

After John McEnroe's performance on Thursday evening, this match was like shifting from lyric poetry to basic English. Never mind. In its own way, the match was richly entertaining.

What it boiled down to was getting the bombs on target as often as possible and making the most of fleeting chances to return service. Ivanisevic was slightly the better at both. Rosset had chances late in the first set and early in the third and delighted the public when one of his aces clattered into the scoreboard and knocked off the set scores.

Ivanisevic is aware that in some ways there are two tournaments here. "I've won this week," he said. "Now I have to win next week."

Scots to form an elite league

By Clive White

LESS than two months before the start of the Premier League in England, the five leading clubs in Scotland yesterday gave notice of their intention to resign from the Scottish League and set up their own super league, to begin in 1994-5.

While their letters of resignation were being delivered, Rangers, Celtic, Aberdeen, Dundee United and Heart of Midlothian convened a press conference in Glasgow to outline their proposals for the new league, intended to replace the existing premier division. They hope that three more clubs will join them to enable a 28-match programme to be played.

Wallace Mercer, the Hearts chairman, said: "This is the most radical and far-reaching set of proposals ever put forward in an effort to improve Scottish football. No one can be in any doubt all five clubs are committed to the earliest possible formation of the Scottish super league."

One of the main recommendations is the introduction of a British Cup to be contested by the top five clubs in the new league and the top 11 in the Premier League.

Ken Friar, the Arsenal chief executive, believes the idea has "great appeal" but questions that room could be found in the fixture list in a 22-club Premier League.

Among the Scottish proposals is more live television coverage and the discouragement of negative play by awarding three points for an away win.

Ray McKinnon, the Dundee United and Scotland under-21 midfielder player, yesterday joined Nottingham Forest for £750,000. Chris Waddle, the former England international, has signed for Sheffield Wednesday in a £1 million move from Marseilles, the French champions.

Africans debate pull-out

Gothenburg: A decision on South Africa's participation in next month's Olympic Games in Barcelona is likely to be taken this weekend (David Miller writes). Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, has been invited to attend a meeting of African heads of state in Dakar, Senegal, where the issue will be discussed.

Together with Mandela in Dakar will be Kebe M'Baye, the IOC vice-president, who headed the special commission that recommended South Africa's return to the Olympic fold. He will be accompanied by Sekou Kidane, the IOC's adviser to the United Nations.

Bobang Phiri won the 400 metres at the African track and field championships in Mauritius and became the first black South African to win a gold medal on his country's official return to international athletics.

Scots leap into the unknown

British ski jumping has just completed the biggest leap in its history. There are now serious plans afoot for a ski jumping centre in this country, and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise Limited are stumping up a hefty sum of money for a feasibility study. The plan is for two jumps, of 20 and 40 metres. The bold young leapers would slide to their destiny on an artificial surface manufactured in Finland. It is impervious to ice, and can be used summer and winter.

It would stand at Hillend in Edinburgh, where there has been a dry ski run since 1964. There are hopes to win formal planning permission for the scheme by March next year.

One possible planning objection to the scheme is "visual intrusion", which is

planning for sticking out. The feasibility study will spend a lot of ink minimising such intrusion. Tim Ashburner, of the British Ski Federation and the father of British ski jumping, said: "In many lovely cities like Oslo, Innsbruck, Garmisch and Ljubljana, the lofty ski jump structures on the city perimeters are symbols of communal pride — a statement to the visitors who gaze in awe at the narrow tracks leading to the heavens. They are a statement that local youth has the heart for the ultimate challenge." Well, I would sooner look out over a ski jump than a multi-story block housing a finance company, if it comes to that.

Fourth write

Postscript on the European football championships: A. Ray writes to me: "Mr Graham Taylor is outstanding. Not only did he take a fourth division team to the first division, but he took one to Sweden as well."



SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

One of the more cheering things about this year's Derby was the gracious behaviour of Ron McAnally, former trainer of the winner, Dr Devous. It was he who suggested the horse leave the United States to join an English trainer and have a tilt at

the Derby. Not only did he show up at Epsom, but he was full of delight about the success of his former charge and rounded things off by giving the Queen a hearty pat on the back. "I meant no disrespect," he said. "The Queen just seemed like a very nice person who loved horse racing."

Slave trade

Here is an idea for people who have not decided what to do on their holidays: enlist as a galley slave. The Tirreum Trust is short of 50 slaves for sea-trials of its reconstructed rowing galley of the fourth century BC. The trials begin off the Greek island of Poros in late July. A week of training will be followed by a week-long voyage. Anyone interested should ring Rosie Randolph on 0491 612411.



Barely enough

Toni Jeffs, a New Zealand Olympic swimmer, is sponsored by a strip club called Tiffany's. Not everybody is happy about this. In fact, she has been ignored by the rest of the New Zealand swimming team. Those with natty things like corporate sponsorship have left New Zealand to hone their talents in the United States before the Games. Jeffs was languishing at home, wondering if she was going to be able to go to Barcelona at all. But once again, Tiffany's has come to the rescue. Jeffs's coach, David Wright, said: "We were a few thousand dollars short, so Tiffany's have undertaken to put on a special event next week, with all the proceeds going to Toni." Further information on Jeffs: she has a kiwi tattooed on her upper thigh.

Tangled roots

Evonne Goolagong — hard even now to think of her as Mrs Cawley — has been 17

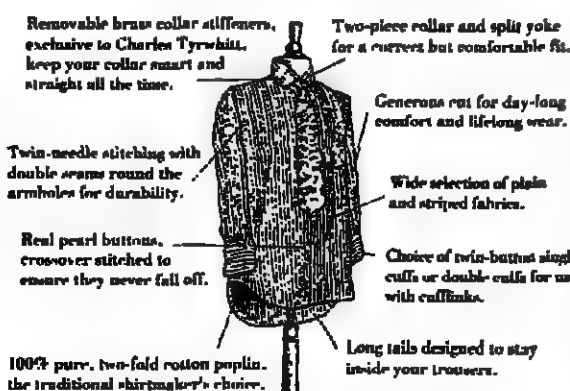
years a Floridian. It is the sort of no-place to which tennis players seem to gravitate. Now Cawley, twice a Wimbledon singles champion and forever the most graceful thing seen on the centre court, has returned to Australia and immersed herself in Aboriginal history. She plans a film and a book and a thorough exploration of her Aboriginal roots.

She had a Damascus Road experience with a rather pointed welcome home gift from a cousin: it was a book titled *Blood on the Wattle: Massacres and Maltreatment of Australian Aborigines since 1788* by Bruce Elders. "I was in a daze for about a week. I could hardly say anything. Why wasn't I taught this at an early age? I felt my identity had been taken from me." Indeed, Australia's record on race is one of the world's best-kept secrets: it is now Cawley's ambition to exalt the Aboriginal people.

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY JUNE 27 1992

PASSPORT TO

FRANCE

PAGES 7 TO 15

The appeal of brass bands is spreading south. On the eve of National Music Day, William Greaves joins the fans to sound out why



Sounds of summer in the park: guided by the conductor's baton, a euphonium, its wide and shiny bell reflecting the pastoral scene, adds its big, softly sonorous voice to that of its smaller colleagues

Tunes of glory

THE excitement had been mounting since their coach arrived in the square a few minutes earlier. Among the thousands of men, women and children lining the precipitous little streets of Dobcross, in the foothills of the Pennines, the word spread faster than the tastiest gossip. "The Purples are here," they said, and even those who had been patiently awaiting service from the bar staff at The Swan abandoned their place in the queue and swarmed towards the door.

And now here they came, marching down Platt Lane, those awesome purple uniforms aligned with military precision and 25 instruments honed into a single voice. The applause was instantaneous. The Brighouse and Rastrick Band was back in town. And suddenly all was well with the world.

It was 10pm, and for the last five hours about 100 brass bands had been hurrying around 19 separate village contests in Saddleworth and Tameside, where the Pennines meet Greater Manchester. None was too famous to compete and none too humble to be accepted. It was a night of merriment and madness, a monument to parochial eccentricity and, above all, a testimony to the undying love affair between the people of northern England and the bands which sprang from the kernel of their cultural and industrial heritage.

Even though the police had closed many of the roads in the neighbourhood to allow the coaches right of passage, the night was not long enough to allow every band to reach all the contests. It was unthinkable, of course, that the beloved B and R would miss out Dobcross but, as the clock ticked away towards the closing hour, the unthinkable was a possibility.

No one need have worried. "I began playing at Delph, up the road, when I was nine; a lot of the lads started in these parts," said Ian Dust, the secretary and tenor horn with the Brighouse and Rastrick. "There's no way we'd miss out our last four stops at Greenfield, Uppermill, Dobcross and Delph."

HIS eyes glazed. "There must have been 4,000 out for us at Greenfield; we were near choking with emotion."

Since 1815, when a group of workmates at the Yorkshire textile firm of John Foster and Sons formed the Black Dyke Mills Band, the unique sound of brass has accompanied its way into the bloodstream of England's industrial north — and is coursing towards places as distant as Cornwall and mainland Europe.

Brass bands today are as plentiful, and as fervently supported, as they were in the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, when brass instruments were easier to play by the rough hands of honest toil. Now that many of the mills, collieries and factories which spawned them have disappeared, their survival is regarded by many as an historical anachronism.

But to think of brass bands as belonging to a musical genre, in the way that pop, rock, jazz, or classical music are genres, is to miss the point of their appeal. Because their only definitive limitation is one of instrumental format rather than output, they can span that spectrum within a single night's repertoire. Maurice Murphy of the London Symphony Orchestra, one of the country's leading classical trumpeters, learnt his craft with Black Dyke Mills. At the less highbrow end of the scale, the B and R version of "The Floral Dance" was at number two in the pop charts for seven weeks in 1977, kept off the top only by Paul

McCartney's "Mull of Kintyre". The factor which makes "banding" unique to its followers is that it is more a competitive sport than an aesthetic diversion. With its band clubs, supporters' clubs, transfer market, youth policies, unofficial league tables and the degree of local patriotism it engenders, its true place in community life is far closer to the football field than it is to the concert hall.

For Bob Platt, 14 years a solo cornet player with the B and R, and at the age of 72, one of the most respected characters wherever bandsmen meet, the choice he had to make as a teenager exemplified that analogy. "I suppose I ought to have been a footballer, because I was really quite good at it," he says. "But my father was bandmaster at Dobcross and I decided on banding because I thought it would last me longer. There was no thought of trying to do both, of course. I first played with the Dobcross Band when I was eight and by the time I had played in my first contest three years later I knew I had made a lifetime's commitment. I've never regretted it where else could I have found such companionship?"

Glancing around the room at the Navigation pub at Uppermill, it was hard to disagree with that judgment. With four hours to go before the first notes were struck in the Whit Friday contests — for more than 100 years the biggest and most colourful pageant in the brass band calendar and one which this year would bring more than 60,000 fans out on the streets of its 19 village venues — we were foregathered for lunch and a pint or two. Bandsmen past and present chattered in animated nostalgia and every inch of the walls

was given over to a photographic art gallery devoted to their common passion. Kevin Wadsworth, who was the youngest player ever to be accepted by the Black Dyke Mills Band in its 177-year history when he joined it just after his fourteenth birthday in 1966 — "my father used to play me to sleep with his euphonium, so I never stood a chance of doing anything else" — guided me round the gallery.

"Here's Major Peter Parks. What a man he was. He was musical director of the Grenadier Guards when Foster brought him to Black Dyke as professional conductor in 1968. At his first few

rehearsals all he said was 'good, that's good, yes, that was fine'. It was me who went up to him and said: 'Excuse me, sir, but we know we're good, all we want you to do is tell us when we're not.' As a military man he had never been spoken to like that, and yet he took it from a snotty 16-year-old and turned us into the greatest band of the 1970s. During those years we won the National Championship four years in succession and the British Open five on the trot.

"And over here, this whole alcove is a shrine to Harry Mortimer, a cornet player with Black Dyke before joining the BBC, starting the

British Open championships and becoming known throughout the world as Mr Brass Bands. The Mortimer family was to us what the Kennedys are to America. Harry's brother, Alex, was musical director of the Manchester CWS band, and their father, Fred Mortimer, was doyen of the Foden Band of the 1920s and 1930s."

Such family dynasties are more the rule than the exception in banding. When Brian Evans, who is popularly regarded as the country's finest exponent of the E-flat solo soprano cornet, joined the Chadderton Band at the age of eight, for instance, it was scarcely

coincidental that his uncle was cornet player, his father drum major and his grandfather chairman of the band.

Eight years after that early debut, Mr Evans moved on to a band at Barton Hall, Eccles, and then came under the wing of Alex Mortimer at the Manchester CWS. "They were geniuses, those Mortimer brothers," he recalls. "Just by being there, they brought things out of you you never knew you had."

From then on, with moves to the Fairley Aviation works band, the B and R and finally the Black Dyke (which, together with Grimethorpe Colliery, Britannia and Desford Colliery, form the country's top six), Mr Evans' career demonstrated another facet of banding: a "transfer market" in which top players are courted and poached by rivals.

It was time for battle to commence, and at 5pm I was locked into a curtained caravan at Greenfield, from which the adjudicator, Kevin Wadsworth, would be able to hear — but not see to identify — each of 50 or so bands over the next six hours.

Over the past year the village had raised prize money of £1,375, £375 of which would go to the night's overall winners, and at the sound of his whistle Mr Wadsworth began scribbling his notes as the first band struck up with a march called "Oldham Rifle Brigade".

"Good bass sound, well controlled. They're good," he whispered. "But slightly more strength from the solo clarinet might help." After thought, he awarded them 180 marks out of 200 and whistled up band number two, which was to play "Ravenswood" by William Rimmer who, alongside George Allan, was the most prolific writer

of brass band music. "Good, solid start with a very slight looseness in the front row at phrase ends — that's the solo corners," Mr Wadsworth judged.

I left him to his lonely vigil and hurried to Dobcross. It was 7.25pm when Grimethorpe Colliery arrived and the crowds rushed to Church Fields to hear them play their contest piece, "Knight Templar", under the baton of conductor Garry Cutt. "Last year we had three firsts, three seconds and two thirds," Mr Cutt said. "Four years ago Fairley Aviation won ten firsts — an all-time record — and pocketed over £3,000 for a night's work."

After travelling with Grimethorpe as they did their best to woo the judges at Uppermill and Greenfield, it was back to Dobcross to catch the B and R make its triumphant entry. And half an hour later, as the Purples waited to play their ninth and final performance of the night outside the Swan at Delph, the conductor, Les Bevers, described the discipline that keeps the northern bands on top. "Good players should never be happy unless they are taking a bit of stick from the likes of me," he said.

"WE SPEND three full rehearsals perfecting every contest piece we play. Southern bands can never understand how you can spend six hours on just 100 bars of music, but when just half a point can be the difference between winning and losing everything has got to be as tight as a drum."

And despite their concert and recording income, when a single corner and horn costs £900 and £1,500 respectively, and thousands of pounds have just had to be found for the first set of new uniforms since 1946, winning can be vitally important to survival for B and R, the only top band not to have works status or commercial sponsorship — even though, like all brass band members, the players are entirely amateur.

In the event, it was Fairley Aviation and Grimethorpe who were the stars of the night, with four firsts each, followed by the B and R with three. Despite the adjudicators' blind judging, the top names had pulled it off again.

In their hands, and fed from the excellence generated within myriad local and junior bands, the future of a great north country tradition seems to confirm the optimism of one of its most famous tunes, "Hail Smiling Morn".

How they build the big band sound



Brass checked effort: a member of the Dobcross village band, Lancashire

ALTHOUGH brass bands can perform concerts with any combination of instruments they choose, for contests they must all adhere to the same strict formation:

- 9 B-flat cornets
- 1 E-flat soprano cornet
- 1 flugelhorn
- 3 tenor horns
- 2 baritone horns
- 2 euphoniums
- 2 tenor trombones
- 1 bass trombone
- 2 B-flat tubas
- 2 E-flat tubas

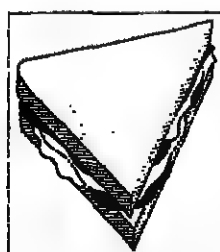
While marching, the band may also use one or two percussion instruments.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 3



Starting today, a weekly round-up of the best rock, jazz and classical music releases from the leading Times critics

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 6



Trade secrets and buttery badinage from the cutting edge of the catering trade: the Sandwich Bar of the Year

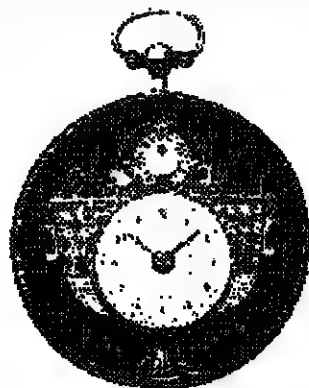
OUT OF TOWN, PAGE 9



Where to take a walk on the child side as the map and compass set limber up for tomorrow's Family Rambling Day

At 10.30am precisely on 1st October 1992.
The best time to sell clocks & watches

Our London sale of Good Clocks, Watches & Wristwatches on 4th June was 85% sold. Timepieces in good condition, by important makers, with rare or precision movements did well, and antique pocket watches, in particular, achieved good prices.



This elegant early 19th century gold skeletonized watch with uniform movement sold for over £6,000 at our 4th June sale.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE OCTOBER SALE: 17TH JULY

Our next sale on 1st October includes a wide range of fine and rare pieces, from longcase and bracket clocks to wristwatches by makers such as Audemars Piguet, Cartier, Patek Philippe and Rolex. If you are unsure of the value or quality of your property and would like to know more, please contact our qualified experts — Tina Millar, Richard Stearns or Michael Turner — as soon as possible on 071-406 5327.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

FILM

THE ADJUSTER (18): Acom. Ego's usual tale of a young man, fantasy and displaced persons, visually seductive but no less. With Elias Kostas, Anissa Khatoun. Metro (071-437 0757).

AUTOBUS (18): Funny moments in Eric Rohmer's story of a schoolboy who falls for a girl. French youth who love a school bus to impress his girlfriend. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

Renoir (071-837 8402).



Tim Robbins with Greta Scacchi in *The Player*

BASIC INSTINCT (18): San Francisco detective Michael Douglas and ice-pick murder Sharon Stone ride a torrid psychosexual rollercoaster. Director, Paul Verhoeven.

MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772).

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-336 6279/370).

7025 MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

Odeon Kensington (0426 915683).

Mezzanine (0426 915683).

Plaza (071-497 9999).

UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

EUROPA, EUROPA (15): Jewish boy saves his life by posing as an Aryan German. Decent if superficial rendition of a true wartime story from writer-director Agnieszka Holland. Barbican (071-638 8891).

Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

THE FIVE HEARTBEATS (15): Bland but good-natured tale of a black rock 'n' roll group's American journey. Robert Townsend writes, directs, and stars with Michael Wright, Tico Wells, Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

GLADIATOR (15): Tawdry, predictable tale of teenaged pugilist on Chicago's South Side. James Marshall, Cuba Gooding Jr, director, Rowdy Herrington.

Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

West End (0426 915574).

UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (15): Psycho nanny (Rebecca De Mornay) wreaks revenge on a squeaky-clean family. Formula thriller with robust acting. Anabelle Scora, director, Curtis Hanson.

MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636).

MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

Odeon Mezzanine (0426 915683).

UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HEAR MY SONG (15): Promoter seeks reclusive Irish tenor Josef Locke, wanted in Britain for tax evasion. Shaggy dog tale with modest pleasures. Starring Ned Beatty, Adrian Dunbar, director, Peter Chelom.

MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory.

Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

JOHNNY SUDDIE: Unlikely urban fairytale about a lone innocent (Brad Pitt) in bedlam, discovering love while dreaming hopelessly of success as a pop star. Tom DiCillo directs.

Camden Plaza (071-485 2443).

Chelsea (071-351 3742/2743).

Gate (071-727 4043).

Lumiere (071-836 0691).

MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

LADYBUGS (PG): Dermal vehicle for pop-eyed comic Rodney Dangerfield, put in charge of a girl's soccer team. Director, Sidney J. Furie.

MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

THE LAWNMOWER MAN (15): Pierce Brosnan's computers turn a simpleton gardener (Jeff Fahey) into a cyber-monster. New technology jamboree laid low by a muddled script. From a Stephen King story; director, Brett Leonard.

Camden Parkway (071-267 7034).

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

Mezzanine (0426 915683).

UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE LONG DAY CLOSING (12): Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise. With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful aural collage of 1950s Britain.

Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Jacques Annaud's over-careful, faithfully erotic adaptation of Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiographical novella about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in Twenties colonial Indo-China.

Barbican (071-638 8891).

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Hanging the President: Columbus returns to Spain with lots of slaves.

Traverse, Cambridge Street (031-228 1404). Previews from Tues, 8pm; opens Fri, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8pm.

UNA POOKA: Exhilarating black and supernatural comedy by Michael Harding, set in Dublin on the eve of the Pope's visit.

Tricycle, 289 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mon, Tues, then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Ian Talbot's jolly production, full of rough and tumble and evergreen comedy. Dinsdale Landon plays Bottom.

Open Air, Regents Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 8pm, mat today, 2.30pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Canadian wonder-worker Robert Lepage directs Shakespeare's play of love and magic. With Jeffrey Kissoon, Sally Dexter and Timothy Spall.

Medieval (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Fri, 7.15pm; opens July 9, 7pm; then in repertoire.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: Alfred Molina and a superb Eileen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's play on the effects of sexual repression.

National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Michael Maloney and Clare Holman smitten by love and destiny in David Leveaux's production.

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm.

50X DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing recreates her role as the rich New Yorker transfixed by a black cab artist in John Guare's play.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE: A wolfish John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seems to equate East-European desecration with getting girls into bed.

Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 6pm and 9pm, Sat, 4.30pm and 8.30pm.

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Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

EUROPEANS: Hilarious satire on Eurobureaucracy by Fringe First winners Talking Pictures, directed by Stephen Daldry.

Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (081-568 1178). Wed-Sat, 8pm.

GRAND HOTEL: New York hit musical based on the 1930s film and Vicki Baum's novel. With Liliane Montevecchi.

Dominion, Tottenham Court

Hanging the President: Columbus returns to Spain with lots of slaves.

Traverse, Cambridge Street (031-228 1404). Previews from Tues, 8pm; opens Fri, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8pm.

UNA POOKA: Exhilarating black and supernatural comedy by Michael Harding, set in Dublin on the eve of the Pope's visit.

Tricycle, 289 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mon, Tues, then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Ian Talbot's jolly production, full of rough and tumble and evergreen comedy. Dinsdale Landon plays Bottom.

Open Air, Regents Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 8pm, mat today, 2.30pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Canadian wonder-worker Robert Lepage directs Shakespeare's play of love and magic. With Jeffrey Kissoon, Sally Dexter and Timothy Spall.

Medieval (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Fri, 7.15pm; opens July 9, 7pm; then in repertoire.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: Alfred Molina and a superb Eileen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's play on the effects of sexual repression.

National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Michael Maloney and Clare Holman smitten by love and destiny in David Leveaux's production.

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm.

50X DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing recreates her role as the rich New Yorker transfixed by a black cab artist in John Guare's play.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE: A wolfish John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seems to equate East-European desecration with getting girls into bed.

Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 6pm and 9pm, Sat, 4.30pm and 8.30pm.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Liz Robertson sings to the hills in a lavish new

Auntie moves in a big way

After a cleansing break from television, Lynne Truss considers the high-minded BBC men and the demise of a soap star



SOME people are a bit snuffy about television. They hide their tellies in cupboards, or behind bookcases, and keep them permanently in nasty, unheated second-storey rooms, alongside bits of old bike and hibernating geraniums. The idea is to prevent themselves from treating television as an easy option, and risking exposure to the spooky quiet of their living-rooms doing improving jigsaw puzzles to the ticking of clocks; and on Sunday evenings debate whether they care enough about *Mastermind* to climb the wooden hill to TV-land and clear a space among the tent-poles and rocking horses.

I do not see the point of such perverse behaviour, really. Television is an easy option or it is nothing. In most people's lives, it is the mental equivalent of endless cups of tea — effortless, regular, reliable, cheap, and only minimally different from one cup to the next. The idea that a discerning person might choose to watch only the "best" programmes makes no sense in this post-modern age. Good television is only good in the context of, well, of television, so you have to allow it to be a thoughtless habit. At least, that's how I see it after a couple of weeks of denying myself any television at all. Reuniting the telly from the shed last weekend to the cheering of the cats, I said, "Odds-bobs, this is a heavy burden", and then paused to ponder how true, how true.

It was a wonderful fortnight in most regards. Of course there were some tricky moments when the television schedules beckoned alluringly (I had to be lashed to a mast when *EastEnders* was on), but generally it was a period of mental cleansing, during which I rediscovered books and jam-making, and periodically stopped seeing the world exclusively in terms of long-shots, close-ups, and over-the-shoulders. Inevitably the cats made adolescent protests — "Miaow" (I'm bored); "Miaow" (Why can't we watch *Noel's Addicts*, like normal?); "Miaow" (Can't I even play my fish-tank video?). But I stood my ground. "Read the *TLS* or something," I said.

So on Sunday, when I returned from the land of the living and, watched ITV's lunchtime *Special Inquiry: The Trouble with Auntie*, I was in an uncharacteristic what's-

TV REVIEW

this-old-nonsense frame of mind. At issue was the future of the BBC, as it faces the crunch of charter-renewal and increasing competition for ratings. Glimpses of a deadly serious top-level think-tank of BBC executives showed chaps in specs foregathered around a tea-trolley in the sort of remote, leafy, 30-bedroom country house normally reserved for episodes of *Lovejoy*. The sort of place where nobody can hear you scream.

What made a bee-line for my hackles was not the seriousness of the BBC's problems (although I am glad, as always, not to be a senior BBC executive because, for one thing, I would have to be a man). It was the phrase "Himalayan Option" that got the proverbial goat. Faced, you see, with the enormous competition from the commercial television marketplace in cheap sitcoms, game shows, people shows and imports, the BBC has the option of operating exclusively on the so-called high ground — hence the Himalayan analogy.

But which Himalayas are they talking about? Isn't the comparison rather grand? I mean, yes there is a difference between *Neighbours* and *Clarissa*, but it is all television, and television by its very nature smooths out quality distinctions. That is what it does best, in fact: it is almost what it is for.

On Sunday night on Channel 4, a *Without Walls* special (an hour long) gave us a straight-faced documentary on the careers of pop artist Richard Hamilton and his former student Bryan Ferry (a real-life pop artefact) — without any distinction being made between the quality of a Roxy Music album cover and the art of Hamilton; or between the art of Hamilton and the art of anyone else. Why? Because it really didn't matter, in the context of today's arts programmes, whether any of it had the smallest iota of merit.

Sorry to rant, but I feel that the *Pennine Option*, or the *South Downs Option* might be a more cautious and apposite term. I think we can all agree that even at its tallest peaks television never requires us to wear breathing equipment or hire sherpas. Looking at an average week (i.e., this one) the outstanding moments are not its peaks, in any case. My favourite



Set for a moving BBC1 occasion: the dying Gill (Susan Dawson) of *EastEnders*, with Mark (Todd Carty) and Michelle (Susan Tully)

bits this week would include Stefan Edberg advertising the *Daily Express* on ITV by pretending to read it; John Barren on *Wimbledon 92* (BBC2) drily commenting on Andre Agassi's Wednesday afternoon appearance — "He looks a bit like a pony, doesn't he?"; and BBC1's *Everyman* taking us inside the bathetic world of American Christian athletes, with their corny songs to the Almighty rhyming "Lord" with "sports".

Plus, there was *EastEnders* (BBC1) with its ground-breaking first soap death by Aids (or should that be "first Aids death by soap"?). Anyway, poor grey-faced Gill died on Thursday in a hospice, having married Mark on Tuesday — and the whole thing was excellently done, with good writing, good acting and no cheap sentiment. To add to the sense of occasion, we were given an abundance of one-off sets and locations, and to top it all a

camera that moved. A rare treat. In the central restaurant scene (above) the camera travelled right around the table, 360 degrees.

The death itself was unsensational, and less distressing than scenes in previous weeks concerning Gill's decline. The unwritten rule of soap opera that deaths should come at the ends of episodes was swept aside, and Gill was placed quite early in Thursday's, which was then devoted mainly to Mark and Michelle, discussing their childhoods and feeding ducks. A stronger contrast could not be found to the last big crowd-puller in *Brookside* (Channel 4), which entailed a not very tense stand-off on a lonely beach between two not very good actors, and ending on the weary cliff-hanger, "Bang".

My only quibble with Gill's death was that it was still more of a death by soap than death by Aids. Her function in the series was

always understood — as a nice, blameless, ill person destined to die young. Involved in no story lines beyond her own, she was supremely expendable. The Aids theme was powerful, obviously, when she was living through the horror of it; but by a curious irony, her death seems to relieve us of Aids rather than impress us with its terrible finality.

It is a real problem of soap opera (in which death is often just an accepted way of getting people off-stage) that big, important deaths fail to connect. For one thing, although grief is an overwhelming, prolonged emotion, it is not dramatic except for a few minutes. But more importantly, television lives in the ever-present tense. Dead people are thus forgotten in the twinkling of an eye, and the wagon train moves on. I reckon this is why the week's scriptwriter, Deborah Cook, gave

us Mark and Michelle reminiscing on the grass and why the camera went right around the table. Look! Three dimensions! Rounded human beings! There was even a special speech for Michelle, saying how weird it was that Gill's death didn't really connect with Aids. But although Gill received the best care a dying woman could ask of a soap opera, in the end (as Mark so rightly pointed out) it didn't stop her dying and passing into history.

In *The Trouble with Auntie*, we were assured that under the famous Himalayan option (now abandoned) *EastEnders* would have been up there on the roof of the world, alongside *Edge of Darkness* and *Black House*. For some reason it makes me want to sing "High on a hill lived a lonely goatherd" in defiance. *EastEnders* is top of the range, certainly. But let's not get carried away buying snow-goggles. A nice cup of tea will do.

TV PREVIEW

● **Black and White in Colour** (tonight, BBC2, 8.45pm) Mega season on BBC2, lasting until Friday, showing the way TV has represented blacks and Asians. Episodes of *The Fosters* and *Empire Road* are interspersed with documentaries and the odd *Play for Today*, and Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. Norman Beaton makes surprisingly few appearances. The fact that the entire history of blacks and Asians in television can be covered in a single week is a sobering thought in itself. Meanwhile there is room to reflect that some of this material (Z Cars, for example) ought more properly to be called *Black and White in Black and White*.

● **Wogan** (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, BBC1, 7pm) So. (Pause. Smile expectantly.) Wogan's farewell week. (Pause.) He's got Michelle. (Pause.) He's got Michelle. (Pause.) And much more besides. (Pause. Nervous titter from audience.) Especially if you count Plácido Domingo. (Pause.) Amazing how you can stretch the material like this. (Pause.) And thereby give the impression that something devastatingly witty is going on in the old sub-text. (Pause.) When it isn't.

● **Secret History: Deep Sleep** (Monday, Channel 4, 9pm) Remember this programme the next time you prop up your weary head and say "I could sleep for a week." Deep sleep therapy, as developed by psychiatrists in the 1930s as a remedy for stress, is evidently the sort of nightmare you don't wake up from. *Secret History* tells the story of more recent experiments in Australia which led to 79 deaths and hundreds of cases of brain damage. It is a good investigative story, with a great twist in the tale. By a wonderful stroke of irony, the chief experimenter to Dr Harry Bailey, received a dose of his own medicine. The Australian press were investigating a patient's death, you see, which led to some stress for the doctor. So his colleagues gave him some deep sleep therapy. You shouldn't laugh.

● **Baby Doll** (Tuesday Channel 4, 10pm) When this Tennessee Williams film was first released in 1956, it was thought that the old swamp alligator of American letters had finally gone too far. Here was Carroll Baker in the famous shorty nightgown: here was a cast of characters whose combined IQ struggled to reach double figures; here was carnal suggestiveness oozing from every frame. The Legion of Decency banned Catholics from seeing it — but interestingly they referred to it as *Baby Doyle*, so perhaps mistook it for an attack on the Irish.

L.T.

Music unlimited: starting today, a weekly rundown of the best of the new releases across the spectrum of sounds

Velvet fist in an iron glove

Ten years ago Helmet's astounding second album, *Meantime* (Interscope 7567-92162-2), would have been categorised (and routinely written off) as heavy metal. Their timing, however, is perfect, and thanks to the Def Jam phenomenon of the 1980s and the mainstream success of Metallica and Nirvana in the 1990s, the New York-based four-piece can sound in many respects like a souped-up version of Black Sabbath and still have its finger as firmly on the pulse as any indie act.

Page Hamilton deploys a guitar sound that is as nimble as it is hard, jabbing out tightly scripted riffs that dodge to either side of the beat like a boxer working out on a little punch-bag. When he is not spitting out snatched segments of lyrics in a wolfish snarl, Hamilton often sings in a strangely fragile timbre which further defuses the old metal stereotype.

The best tracks — "Give It", "Unsung", "He", "Feels Bad"

ROCK

— combine bone-crushing pressure with a subtle, stabbing momentum. *Meantime* proceeds with a dread thud and a mordant swing.

Having enjoyed patchy results since *Light of the World*, their 1980 album debut, *Incognito* finally broke through with last year's hit single "Always There". *Tribes, Vibes and Scribes* (Talkin Loud 512 363-2) is impeccably turned-out upmarket soul.

The deluge of Queen product released in the wake of Freddie Mercury's death shows no sign of easing up. *Box of Tricks* (Star Direct CDQTEL 001) is the most lavish package yet. A sumptuous, two-tier vermillion box opens to reveal a video ("Live at the Rainbow '74"), booklet, poster, T-shirt and CD (or cassette) compilation of rare 12in mixes. Available only by mail order from PO Box 643, Bristol BS99 1TU, £49.99 (plus £3.50 p&p).



Heavy makes you happy: Helmet offer their own Nirvana

With Tom Jones currently enjoying mixed notices for his Saturday night Central TV series, now is clearly the right time to punt a new compilation of the following boy's greatest hits. *The Complete Tom Jones* (The Hit Label 644 286-2), although hardly "complete", boasts a generous com-

plement of favourites, from "It's Not Unusual" and "Green Grass of Home" to more recent triumphs like "A Boy From Nowhere" and his hilariously macho reading of Prince's "Kiss".

DAVID SINCLAIR

Good Dirty fun

What a curious world. A juvenile rapper can become a household name simply by mouthing a few swearwords, yet after a decade and a half of hard work the Dirty Dozen Brass Band is still almost unknown in this country.

The New Orleans group is one of the two or three most enthralling live jazz acts in the world, yet its recent British tour did not even include any dates in central London. Part of the problem has been finding a way of channelling the uninhibited energy of their concerts into their studio recordings. *Open Up (Watcha Gonna Do For The Rest of Your Life?)* (Columbia 468365) is the closest they have come since signing a major record deal.

The basic marching band concept is much the same, but this time there are no guest stars and only one non-original tune — "Eyouzz!" by Johnny Dyan, the late and lamented South African bass player.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ
ments lack the flair and unpredictability of a Mingus, the piece still bodes well for the future.

New British talent is given a showcase on *Pyrotechnics* (CDP-7996592), a laudable collaboration between Blue Note and the Technics hi-fi company. The plan was to allow the musicians time and space to practise their craft, and it seems churlish to pick holes in it. But it is the same old story of masses of technical skill and a teaspoonful of emotional content. Django Bates is the most individual composer, but even his work shows a fertile talent at war with a relentlessly skittish sense of humour.

In any future venture the two companies could consider giving space to vocalists like Claire Martin, whose debut album *The Waiting Game* (Linn Records AKD018) illustrates a welcome knack of digging up neglected show tunes. She is not afraid of taking on contemporary pop tunes either.

CLIVE DAVIES



GUILTY SECRETS

Eddy Shah: "I'm addicted to watching *Through The Keyhole* out of sheer nosiness: it's compulsive. Ordinary people like to see how a 'celebrity' lives and, if you are a celebrity or someone with money, you can sit at home and think, 'I've got a better house than that!'"

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By far the most stylish and serious of Mozart recital recordings missed Mozart year altogether. Peter Schreier's selection of Mozart *Lieder*, accompanied by András Schiff (Decca 430 514-2) distances itself from last year's unnatural ghst, and makes its own lucid assessment of the composer's contribution to the song repertoire.

Between them, Schreier, with a lifetime's understanding of the German *Lied*, and Schiff, with his unique discernment of Mozart's keyboard writing, have the just measure of this music. They know just how to paint the little rococo scenes of Cupids and Sylvias, Demons and Chloés without coyness or embarrassment. They recognise, too, the sophisticated nature of songs like the melancholic "Ich wurd auf meinem Pfad" and "Abend-

empfindung", with its evening serenade.

For the ubiquitous Goethe setting of "Das Veilchen", Schreier takes his expressive cue not from the violet's plight, but from the shape of the musical line itself. For once, the song is freed from sentimentality. Schreier puts his false teeth in for a nicely understated character piece, "Die Ahe", yet steps out with springing tread on Wisdom's path in "The Song of the Journeyman".

In this and another of Mozart's Masonic items, the *Kleine deutsche Kantate*, Schreier tempers the Sarastrian solemnity of cadence with a characteristic liveliness of word and grace of phrase. With Schiff's nimble and wide-eyed accompanying,



Strong Kathleen Battle

this is far more than a supplement to the Mozart catalogue. Kathleen Battle curries sweetly to Mozart in the live recording of her 1991 Carnegie Hall recital (DG 435 440-2). The tale of Luise burning her faithless lover's letters is answered by a winsome "Ridente la calma". Liszt's French songs ("S'il est un charmant gazon", "Oh, quand je dors") fit the salon vulnera-

bility of Battle's velour soprano to a nicety. She descends from the moonlit steppes of four Rachmaninov songs to Gershwin's "Summertime", where she is more at home. Four spirituals end a recital generously sprinkled with loud applause.

Battle's recording of baroque repertoire with the trumpeter Wynton Marsalis is stronger stuff (Sony SK 466672). These are hardly the bright seraphim of a Silesian master; nothing could be further from our current notions of stylistic authenticity. But only the most firmly pursed lips could deny the thrill of their antiphonal calls to battle in four of Alessandro Scarlatti's *arie con tromba sola*: only those with ears reluctant to hear could fail to enjoy Handel's "Eternal Source of Light Divine" and the sometimes mischievous gymnastics of Marsalis's ornamentation in both Handel and Bach.

HILARY FINCH

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Lacey lady goes on the town

Tyne Daly, in London for concerts, talks to Richard Morrison

Even as she sits in the Savoy, preparing to do something completely different, Tyne Daly is plagued by pestilent British journalists on one topic only: *Cagney and Lacey*. The show about two women cops toughing it out among the male debris of New York (and that's just in the police station) has gripped television viewers on both sides of the Atlantic for six years. Daly plays Mary Beth Lacey—the arch-worrier, precariously balancing career, family and pregnancies, and still managing to frisk the odd villain with a mean zeal.

No wonder, I suggest rashly, that Mary Beth has become a role model. Daly models demurs. “This role model thing frightens me. An actress can’t set out to play a role model, or play a slogan. Any role, whether it’s Lady Macbeth or Mary Beth, has to be grounded in specifics. You can’t simply play ‘Love’s Young Dream’ or ‘The Monster Mother’.”

Nevertheless, *Cagney and Lacey* broke new ground, in giving to women roles traditionally assigned to men. The tough guys. The buddies. The main interest.

“There were precedents,” Daly points out. “*Charlie’s Angels*, *Policewoman*. Mind you, Miss Dickinson always had to run around in high heels, and be saved by the boys. Our producer devised *Cagney and Lacey* because he wanted a series about two buddies who are women. In a perfect world, he said, they would have worked in a post office, doing much less flashy jobs. He was really interested in being a fly on the wall of the ladies’ room, listening in to what women really talk about, when they are not making an adjustment to a society run by men.”

As directors and writers came and went, Daly says that the main actors felt an obliga-

tion to be “custodians of our roles”, rejecting any storyline that felt, literally, “out of character”. Gradually, the complex personal lives of Cagney and Lacey took over the plots. In any other cop series, the lack of screaming tyres and smoking guns and shouts of “Freeze!” would be considered a trifle disadvantageous. With *Cagney and Lacey*, the viewers were more absorbed than ever.

Those black depressions of Mary Beth’s, when she brooded over her inner turmoil, testing even the patience of her husband, the saintly Harv—why were they introduced? “Remember that Mary Beth was doing precisely the tricky juggling act that a lot of women actually do,” says Daly. “She was trying to be wife, mother and employee, and feeling desperately tired and ill-equipped.”

Was that drawn from Daly’s own experience? “Sure. The first Emmy I won was for a show called *Burn Out*, which was my idea. I wanted to portray a tired woman suffering from overload, and having a promised vacation taken away from her, and simply disappearing. It was great fun to do, because it was exactly what I was feeling at the time.”

That is hard to believe. Strong boned, bracingly direct in quintessential New York style, Daly looks the epitome of resilience, and her astonishingly prolific career attests to her professionalism. She is here to take part in two Barbican concert perfor-

mances of Bernstein’s 1944 musical *On the Town*, with the London Symphony Orchestra and a cast of distinguished opera singers. Deutsche Grammophon is recording the performances. Won’t the plot—three sailors on 24-hour leave in wartime New York—seem dated?

“It’s a period piece, but not dated,” says Daly. “Having a limited time to cram a lot of fun into: all of us have experienced that. And it has beautiful tunes. ‘New York, New York’ is the one that’s known, but ‘We’ll catch up some other time’ is one of the ten prettiest pieces ever.”

How is Daly’s singing voice? “I did train to be a singer, with Philip Burton—surrogate father of Richard Burton. His American Musical and Dramatic Academy was founded on the premise that American actors must be able to function in the musical theatre, because that’s our artform. You had to be able not only to speak and move, but also sort of sing. That’s what I do: sort of sing.”

Three years ago this “sort of singing” landed Daly the best role ever written for a woman in an American musical: the appalling Rose in *Syne and Sondheim’s Gypsy*, which was revived on Broadway 30 years after its premiere. She won a Tony, and gave the show 600 times. As she was known for playing a cop, had she expected to be offered such a role?

“Yes. I have an enormous ego, you know. That’s how you survive in this business.” The selection process had its surreal points. “Initially I received a letter that said: ‘Mr Sondheim, Mr Syne and Mr Laurents would like you, and no one else, to come and do *Gypsy* in New York’. Well, that was pretty far-fetched: I figured they had asked Liza before me. But I said okay.



Tyne Daly, typically New York: “That’s what I do: sort of sing”

“Then I got another letter. ‘Would you like to come to Mr Syne’s apartment on Park Avenue, so that you can do the odd song with the piano and establish some keys.’ So I said ‘sure, I’ll do that’.”

“Then I got a third letter. ‘Your audition for Mr Syne, Mr Sondheim and Mr Laurents is at this appointed hour at this theatre’. What was once an invitation was now an audition. But it was fine with

me. I’ve never gotten elegant about not auditioning. Part of what you’re supposed to do is go and show your wares.”

That way of thinking, of course, is worlds apart from the “come and beg me” attitude of modern Hollywood’s brash young stars. But then, Daly was steeped in old-fashioned stage values from childhood. Both parents were actors. “I consider I’m in a service job,” she says.

That service has included 200 television shows, dozens of film and stage roles, four Emmy awards and a Tony. She disappears for the Barbican, still willing to learn. “I’ll be watching how those opera singers work, seeing if I can pick up a few more tricks of my trade.” She would probably make a terrific Tosca.

On the Town is at the Barbican Hall (071-338 8891) tomorrow (7.30) and Monday (7.45)

Modest memorial to the composer

CONCERTS
Panufnik memorial
Barbican/Radio 3

SIR Andrzej Panufnik intended himself to conduct the premiere of his Cello Concerto, commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra for Mstislav Rostropovich to perform. But the composer died a month after finishing what became his last work. His premiere was the centrepiece of the orchestra’s memorial concert to him, conducted by the American Hugh Wolff.

The concerto is of modest dimensions, involving only five wind instruments, drums and strings, of which the cellos were grouped centrally behind the soloist, although the reason was never very apparent. In two movements, it seemed also relatively modest in its writing, the first movement opening out from intimations of poetic fading to a passionate cry of concern.

This contrasted with a more active and almost jaunty sequel, keeping firm roots in tonality and having a relationship that Panufnik characterised by the geometric shape of the mandorla, set up when two equal circles overlap. The palindromic implications of

this are, however, not as elusive as they might seem. There was much to be said as a keen concertgoer, not least as a keen conductor, for the balance by the composer.

The latter’s expansive features carved such a path from the players in the Tenth Symphony, as much of it took on the character of a public hearing, a single-movement work, chiefly notable for its small motifs in its opening, poster-bright sound.

Later, Rostropovich turned to possibly a more dramatic demonstration of his skills as a cellist. Dvorak’s Cello Concerto, in the perfect pose of the soloist, left one in no doubt of the memory in Panufnik’s shapely orchestral structure.

NOEL GOODWIN

Dark horses win

Quatuor Mosaiques
St James, Piccadilly

HOW typical of the particular enterprise of the Luffhansa Baroque Festival that it should provide the London debut for a quartet whose name is barely known in this country. True to form, though, this least attention seeking and most musically satisfying of long-term festival partnerships has sought out one of the most distinctive of quartets currently playing in Europe: The Quatuor Mosaiques, all members of the Vienna Concentus Musicus, are led, from the cello, by Christophe Coin, well known for his solo work with the Academy of Ancient Music.

They play period instruments in a style which transcends mere period manner. Their strong grasp of musical argument is an unmistakable hallmark of their work with Nikolaus Harnoncourt; yet the deceptive grace and nonchalance with which they shape and shade each phrase is entirely their own.

The little Haydn Op 103, just two perfectly balanced movements, has become something of a landmark for these Mosaiques. At the midway point, passing spreading into luminous, hardening into later, more intimate units, was played as it discovered for the first time.

Complementing the more limpid quality of the playing, are the rhythms and rubato of the Eastern European tradition, in which they were all trained. This fairly bounced out of the Menuet, both here and in the Mozart “Dissonance” Quartet with which they ended their programme.

They had begun with Haydn’s E flat major quartet, Op 20 No 1. Homogeneity of tone and perfect blending seemed irrelevant here. What mattered, and what is so much more interesting, was the inter-fertilisation of each individual voice, one with another.

HILARY FINCH

Parents and children have different views of the past

THEATRE

On Top of the World
Croydon Warehouse

A TITLE of this sort means only one thing, and that is irony. Clive, a widower, has been uprooted from his suburban marital home and thrust by his daughter into an apartment in the tallest tower block of Surfers’ Paradise, Queensland. From the viewing platform on the 32nd floor they can see miles of ocean and even, when the daughter, Steph, is being fanciful, centuries of history, back to the Crucifixion and the Trojan War. And is he happy? One guess only.

Michael Gow’s uneven but arresting play (subject: family discontent) was first produced by the Sydney Theatre Company in 1986 and is brought to the Warehouse in a new production by that company, directed by Wayne Harrison. STC’s artistic director.

Whatever its faults, uncertainty of the Australian background will not be one of them, although for English audiences the searing effect of the 1930s Depression may well seem an odd element to include in a relatively contemporary play. Cantankerous

insensitive at this point. Long speeches are much favoured by Gow and each of his four characters is given one that discloses his or her shaping experience. Steph and Marcus (Todd Boyce) are not well served by theirs, so that for all the relentless ear-bashing from one and the gulped confession by the other, their characters remain unfocused.

But with the older couple Gow knows exactly what he is doing and can net a lifetime’s experience in a five-minute reverie. When Ronald Falk as Clive recalls his wife’s mania for home improvements, in a tartly funny, heartfelt speech, he seems to speak for a generation of hag-ridden Australian husbands.

Balancing this comes Ramsey’s account of caring for a singularly accident-prone family, in which Gow makes tenderness coexist with humour and Ramsey, smiling beneath her white hair like a placid iced bun, presents the unaggressive alternative to restless go-gettiness.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Conflict: Baby (Lois Ramsey, left) and Steph (Carol Burns) in *On Top of the World*

Shadowy ritual games

DANCE

White Bird Featherless
Playhouse, Oxford

SIQBHAN DAVIES’s new work for her own company takes place on a white floor surrounded by blackness, with three chevron glasses just visible on either side, shaped like tall, pointed church windows. Peter Mumford’s lighting throws patterns onto the floor, like the squares of a chessboard, or the flagstones of a church.

Are we looking for games here, or a solemn ritual? We get both. Ambiguity is relevant, because the title of the piece, *White Bird Featherless*, is taken from an 18th-century riddle. Those words also come from the score by Gerald Barry, for two pianos and countertenor, which itself comes partly from his opera *The Intelligence Park*.

Barry’s music infuses Davies’s dances with both energy and mystery. There are compelling passages of complex speed and intensity for the pianos (ably manoeuvred at

Oxford by Ian Townsend and Clive Williams) and haunting, enigmatic sequences specially written for Nicholas Clapton’s vivid countertenor.

The six dancers are dressed by Antony McDonald in white outfits which seem suited equally to sports or to medieval romance. Colour is introduced only by the imitation fruits they play with at the beginning and the end: large red apples and green pears, and two heraldically ornate pineapples, passed from hand to hand by a man and a woman entwined together.

The rules of these courtly games are not divulged to the

spectators, but they provide a marvellous context for Davies’s invention, which mingles playfulness with solemnity, fluent and demanding movement with a spacious clarity. Davies has a special gift for integrating moments of stasis into her dances so that the stillness clarifies rather than interrupts the flow of rhythm; this is used particularly well in relation to the eerie eruptions of the voice into the percussive score.

Half of the dancers are new to the company but they all go so well with each other and with Davies’s intentions that you would be hard put to say which are the three new and which the old hands: except that in a revival of *Wyoming*, completing the programme, Gill Clarke shows heart-rending intensity that makes her, unambiguously, first among equals.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Batman’s latest success

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And here I am, knee-deep in freezing water, surrounded by 50 live penguins and Danny DeVito struggling with 50lb of make-up...

Batman Returns—the director interviewed, in The Sunday Times Review tomorrow

PAULINE COLLINS

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KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Cost of caring

At my home in the Hebrides it is possible to live without supermarkets: that means little consumer choice. In a way that is irksome, because "good" alternatives — free-range chicken, outdoor pork, organic vegetables — may be unobtainable. In another way, it is salutary. You never get to feeling that something ought to be there just because you fancy it.

In the cities, supermarket shoppers have choice as never before — chickens of several different degrees of free-rangeness, maybe — and yet they are still buying the unkind broiler. On grounds of cost? Out of a genuine lack of money? In many cases not. I believe the choices shoppers make are often out of sheer self-indulgence: it is cheap and I am mean, so to hell with the chickens, is the message they give to retailers.

One can survive without that sort of choice. It is not difficult to get into the habit of walking past battery eggs, cheap pork products (cruelly produced) or broiler chickens. If there were not so much choice, one would not bother looking at the price. So if it helps, don't look at the price.

Showing self-restraint in shopping might even lead to wider choices at the "good" end of the scale: the more people buy the high-welfare products, the more competition there will be between kind, kinder and even kinder products. In a few years' time we could be choosing between periphery and free-range eggs, for example, with battery cage

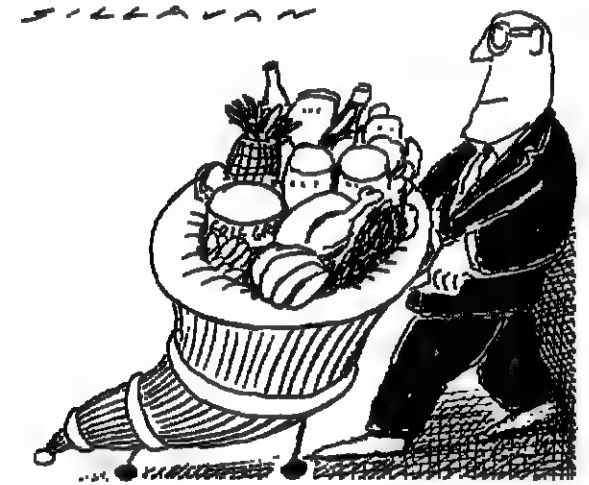
eggs phased out through lack of consumer demand. Or between loose-housed indoor and free-range pork.

One of my daydreams is of a Body Shop-style food retailing chain: shops where the moral homework had been done for shoppers.

If it ever happened, you would be able to get all the ingredients for this banana loaf there. No cheap South American bananas; the Windward Islands depend on Britain's trade promises. Eggs from genuinely free-ranging hens. Brazil nuts, to encourage sustainable use of tropical forests. Oil from sunflowers, good for wildlife, not from rape seed, bad for hayfever. Sugar from Guyana, where they depend on it for export. Coffee — yes, I know coffee has a bad record socially and environmentally — buy it from Traidcraft. Or use Guinness — well, yes, that has a bad record in some respects too. And organic flour.

Ethically sound banana loaf
1lb/500g organic wholewheat flour
4 tsp baking powder
1 tsp nutmeg
2 tsp cinnamon
4oz/100g chopped brazil nuts
8fl oz/200ml oil
3 free-range eggs
6oz/175g light muscovado sugar
4 medium bananas, mashed
6fl oz/150ml strong black coffee

Sift first four ingredients, add nuts. Whisk everything else for one minute, then fold mixtures together. Pour into two greased loaf tins (1lb/500g size) and bake for 45-50 min at 150C.



Service with a lemon-scented smile: Michael Bostock, Britain's Sandwich Bar of the Year winner, and his assistant Trevor Irving, at Clocks, their shop in Kingston, Surrey

Earning an honest crust

Working for a credit card company did not do nicely for Michael Bostock, so he became king of the sandwich makers. Josephine Fairley reports

You can spot Britain's Sandwich Bar of the Year from the queue of eager customers that snakes along the street outside in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Fast-food eaters could nip into the nearby Boots or M & S for a pre-packaged, temperature-controlled sandwich with a precisely measured dollop of filling and a uniform lettuce leaf. But the almost overnight success of the Clocks bar, run by 34-year-old Michael Bostock, the winner of the British Sandwich Association's top award, suggests that when it comes to buying sandwiches many people prefer them served with a smile — and a lemon-scented napkin.

Britons buy about 40 million sandwiches a week, worth

£1.45 billion a year. But although the chain stores have grabbed a big chunk of the lunch market over the last decade, sandwich bars such as Mr Bostock's are booming.

Eighteen months ago, Mr Bostock bought his lunchtime sandwiches from Boots and ate them at his desk at the American Express company, where he marketed AmEx gold cards. "It was a high-powered career, but I couldn't take a desk job any longer," he says. "I wanted something where I could walk around more, and if I got annoyed and frustrated I could, at least, take it out on a side of salt

beef." His catering ambitions were kindled by a stint in the public house trade, then as a commis waiter at Claridges hotel in London, after which "I yearned to be involved in catering, but as the boss".

He found premises in Clarence Street, Kingston and, to give the venture a theme, decorated the walls with his collection of antique docks, which inspired the bar's name.

Mr Bostock and two assistants make more than 200 sandwiches a day. Fillings such as egg and cress (the cheapest sandwich at £1.05) and smoked salmon and cream cheese (the dearest at £2.45) are prepared early each morning, before the rush.

"It's like show business," he says. "We're raring to go 'on-stage' at 11 o'clock, ready with the badinage — which the clients love."

The queue of customers moves swiftly, and there's classical music while you wait to soothe impatient toe-tappers. "But people don't mind waiting, so long as the sandwich-maker is not taking an age to prepare," he says. "We make eye contact, smile,

acknowledge people. Offering that kind of personal service was my goal from the start."

And there are the little extras: that lemon-scented napkin for sticky fingers, and a distinctive carrier bag.

Reflecting a growing concern with health, Clocks' malted grain sandwiches (white bread by four to one. But although Mr Bostock offers some unusual combinations — blue Brie and grapes, fresh asparagus, or a "Wimbledon Special" featuring cream cheese and strawberries — he laments that the average sandwich-eater is unimaginative.

"Chicken is our best-seller by far, though that includes coronation chicken and chicken tikka, then egg, then honey-roast ham," he says. A surprising number of customers order the same sandwich every day. "Sometimes you want to say to a dyed-in-the-wool roast beef-eater, I dare you to have an egg mayonnaise instead."

Mr Bostock longs to offer dessert sandwiches, featuring cream and fruit, or to emulate smart City sandwich-sellers

whose flavour-of-the-moment is a BLP (bacon, lettuce and fruit). "But I don't think Kingston is ready for that yet," he says.

It was as much Mr Bostock's finely tuned corporate identity as his recipes which scooped the BSA's award, which was sponsored by Edam cheese. (That no such filling appears on his 35-sandwich menu clearly lost him no points.) Jim Winship, a BSA official, says: "Clocks created something a bit different."

The staff, including Mr Bostock, wear waistcoats and long aprons, and the nostalgic theme extends to the delivery service — via a 1960s Ministry of Defence bicycle.

But behind the old-fashioned facade, Mr Bostock is one step ahead of the new, strict European Commission guidelines governing safe sandwich preparation and storage. "I'm looking at the possibility of a fridge for the delivery bike, powered by pedals, or by solar," he says.

Mr Bostock is the envy of his former colleagues at American Express. He recently received a postcard from an ex-work-

mate who had visited the bar on a rare occasion when Mr Bostock was not standing behind the counter. "Sorry to miss you," she wrote. "I bet you're glad you didn't call it Bostock's Butties, after all."

Such a name does not trip off the tongue as neatly as Clocks, perhaps. And Bostock's Butties might not have fulfilled the BSA's "theme" criteria quite so elegantly. Nevertheless, in Kingston, the customers would probably still queue half-way round the block for a Michael Bostock special sarnie.

Here is an example from his repertoire:

Clocks' Wimbledon Special
(serves 1, costs £1.50)
2 slices fresh wholemeal bread
cream cheese (Philadelphia or Philadelphia Light)
mixed leaves (radicchio, lollo rosso, fennel, curly endive)
sliced strawberries

Spread the two slices of bread with cream cheese in place of butter. Cover with a layer of leaves, torn but not in small pieces. Cover with thick layer of sliced strawberries. Slice sandwich in half and enjoy.

● Clocks, Clarence Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (081-974 5050).

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ENTERTAINING AT HOME

Rosa Monckton

Since we married last December and moved to Pimlico we've had lots of dinner parties. Our guests are always a whole mix of people: friends, business friends, family.

Although I am gregarious and love entertaining, I am not in any way a domesticated creature. I can't cook and it irritates me to have to spend time in the kitchen. Besides, when you have a big job, as I do, it's almost impossible to go home and start slaving. So while I love going to Berwick Street market and doing the shopping, I find I'm always exhausted afterwards and the thought of actually having to cook what I've bought is totally beyond me.

Now I've found this really sweet girl called Jane who does it all for me. She's great and never panics. If she needs extra help, she just gets somebody in. All of which means that entertaining nowadays is pure pleasure. In fact, I would entertain for breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner so long as I didn't have anything to do with the mechanics of it.

What I love best is shuffling the pack — putting very unlikely people together and seeing how they get on — and if it's confrontational, so much the better. At our last party, for example, we had the priest who married us — wearing his Benedictine robes — and Auberon Waugh. It all ended at two in the morning with a really heated discussion on the pros and cons of abortion. To

me a good evening is when you are left with a hard core of people who are so interested in the conversation they don't want to go home even though they have to work the next day.

Food definitely comes way down on my list of priorities, though drink is terribly important because it loosens people up. I leave the wine to Dominic who has a very good palate — he gets most of it from the Spectator Club. If we're feeling flush we'll probably give them champagne when they arrive — and always if it's a breakfast party at Tiffany's. Work and home entertaining tends to overlap. Sometimes I meet someone over the counter and we become good friends. I enjoy that.

Ours is one of those old Pimlico houses that has a room on each floor. I've decorated the dining room in an Arab way — I love that part of the world — and the ice is always immediately broken when people open the door and are absolutely astonished to see this Arabian tent with stars on the ceiling.

The drawing-room is quite different — huge, with tall windows, high ceiling and two fireplaces. I've done it in brilliant red, blue and ochre, so it looks very striking. There are lots of those little intimate areas where people can continue their dinner conversation without having to become part of a general group. The moment that happens some one always looks at his watch



Shuffler: Rosa Monckton

and says he has to go now. I must say, I hate people leaving.

Our house has an old-fashioned hoist up to the kitchen. The snag is that there does have to be someone there to receive it. If we're having a small dinner party, say for eight, Jane always leaves the food and goes home, which means that either Dominic or I have to run up and down all the time and it rather defeats the object. But I do love the sensation of pulling the rope. We even use the hoist if there's just Dominic and myself simply because we are both so clumsy — we break absolutely everything.

I always go to enormous trouble with flowers. I say to my display manager at Tiffany's: "Andrew, I'm having a dinner party tonight" and he

does them. He's a most talented boy. Again, I'm so bad at that sort of thing. Dominic's the same, except he does make the most wonderful hollandaise sauce — a most impressive achievement, I think.

Of course one of the most important things is candlelight. It makes everything look so romantic. Women in particular are always worrying about how they look, but in candlelight they can be completely natural and unself-conscious. We were lucky enough to be given as a wedding present from Tiffany two very large glass candlesticks made by a master glass blower in Murano called Saguso. On the walls we hang storm lanterns with candles in them. I love that camp-fire effect, that story-telling atmosphere. I feel very strongly that people talk differently under candlelight than under electric light. Fun and glamour are what entertaining's all about.

Another wedding present was a beautifully formal hostess record book which has headings like "Food Given" and "Gown Worn". We've resisted using it so far, but now I think we will. After all, when you have as many dinner parties as we do, it's got to be useful to know what you fed people.

Dominic Lawson's hollandaise sauce
makes enough for two
2 eggs
3 1/2 oz butter
3tbsp white wine vinegar

Get rid of the egg whites and chop the butter into knobs. Reduce wine vinegar with cloves and pour it into the yolks on a bain marie. Whisk over simmering water while stirring in knobs of butter steadily. Now whisk vigorously, plonk it down and eat.

Interview by Paddy Bart
● Rosa Monckton, MD of Tiffany the Jeweller, is married to Dominic Lawson, editor of The Spectator.

Season perfectly preserved

Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, enjoys a traditional burst of midsummer pickling activity before the dog days arrive



FRIENDS who live near Modena in northern Italy will be busy this week. San Giovanni, the Feast of St John, also midsummer's day, is when walnuts are picked to make *nocino*, the traditional liqueur of the region.

Suave, dark and mellow with a powerful undertone, Angelo's home-made version has legendary powers. It is not a drink to be trifled with — a thimbleful on a winter's day will keep the cold out. I include a recipe today for those who have walnut trees. The bottling alcohol is the kind you buy in French grocers as *eau de vie de fruits*. You could use vodka or brandy, but the end result will not be quite the same.

Nocino (walnut liqueur)

(makes 1 litre)
25 whole green walnuts
1 litre bottle of alcohol
3in/7.5cm cinnamon stick
4 cloves
1 walnut leaf
1½lb/600g sugar

Cut each walnut into six longitudinal wedges and put them in a large glass preserving jar with the alcohol (use two or more smaller containers if necessary) and the spices. Seal the jar and leave it in a sunny, warm place for two months, shaking it from time to time. At the end of this period, strain the liquid through muslin or a fine sieve into a jug. Make a syrup with half the sugar and 2tbsp water, and in another saucepan caramelize the remaining sugar. When just brown, but not burnt, remove from the heat and carefully pour in the boiling syrup, stirring all the time. The mixture must not caramelize further. Allow it to cool, and mix the caramel syrup with the filtered walnut extract. Seal it back in the jar, and leave for 30-40 days more, shaking it occasionally, and then filter once more before bottling.

Traditionally, the liqueur is aged for a year and preferably two before drinking.

IN THE country, midsummer marks the final fling of activity before the lazy, dog days of July and August. In the kitchen it is time for pickling and preserving, as gardens and allotments move into full production. I have a faded piece of paper I found in an old cookery book. It reads: "Order extra salt for beans. Shallots — use earthenware 7lb jars. Put lavender to dry. Refill bags. Linen room, bathroom cupboards, shelves." I have rarely read anything quite so evocative of another, less demanding age.

Even though I have no garden full of beans and shallots waiting to bottle, and I shall have to beg lavender from friends with gardens, I mean to capture some of the flavour of an English summer. My

fishmonger sells samphire, which I shall preserve using a fairly sweet pickle mix. Fresh, it makes a wonderful first course on its own, quite as good as asparagus and best cooked in the same way, steamed and served with melted butter. And it is, of course, a superb accompaniment to fish and shellfish dishes.

Of all the herb vinegars, lavender is the one I like best, and I shall make a couple of bottles to last me until next summer. Nothing could be easier. Before it is fully opened, take a faggot of lavender and put in a bottle of white wine vinegar. Recork and leave, ideally on a sunny window sill for two to three weeks. The lavender can be removed or left in, as you wish.

I would also have a look at the flower garden, at roses for creams and sorbets, nasturtiums and marigolds for salads and flower butters, as well as nasturtium seeds for a caper-like pickle.

There are two ways to make flower butter. With nasturtiums or marigolds, where it is mainly the colour I want, I put the flower petals in a food processor with butter, blend until thoroughly mixed, and then refrigerate until needed. To make a rose or lavender butter, which makes an unusual addition to the teatable with warm scones, wrap a block of unsalted butter in muslin and bury it in a bowl of fresh flower petals.

IF YOU have a walnut tree, as well as *nocino*, you might also make a jar or two of pickled walnuts to serve with cold game dishes, ham and terrines in the autumn and winter. According to Henry Sarsen, whose 1940 book, *Home Pickling*, is one of my favourites, "only a pickled peach can beat a good pickled walnut, and not always then".

Pickling your own food means that you can flavour the vinegar as you wish and have the pickle as crisp or as soft as you like. Over the years, I have tried a variety of methods for pickling samphire, including cooking it slowly, blanching it briefly or pouring on a hot vinegar. I find that I like it best just salted and with a cold, almost unsipped vinegar poured over it. Thus the crispness is retained, even if the colour still fades.

To safeguard against spoilage, you need to use a strong vinegar of about 6 per cent to achieve a pickle of at least 3 per cent, bearing in mind that most vegetables have a high percentage of water. Malt vinegars and distilled spirit vinegars can be used, and sherry vinegar is of the right strength but is more expensive, as is old wine vinegar. Non-brewed condiment is not a vinegar.

The pickling process involves immersion first in dry salt or brine to draw out as much water as possible from the fruit or vegetable, which would otherwise dilute the vinegar, and then immersion in

vinegar. This can be bought ready-flavoured, or you can make your own pickling vinegar.

Standard brine
5oz/140g salt
1pt/570ml water

Dissolve the salt in the water and use 1pt/570ml for each 1lb/455g vegetables. Small "drier" vegetables, such as capers, nasturtium seeds and samphire, can be given a dry salt treatment.

Pickling vinegar can be made in advance and kept until required. Because the fumes of hot vinegar are so pervasive, it is a good idea to make pickles on a day when you can have all the doors and windows open. This sweet pickle is the one I like to use for small cucumbers, onions and mixed vegetables. For samphire, which has such an elusive flavour, I leave out the ginger, dill and coriander, but keep the "sweet spices".

Sweet pickling vinegar
(makes 1pt/570ml)
1pt/570ml vinegar
6oz/170g light muscovado sugar
1in/2.5cm piece fresh ginger, peeled
5 cloves
piece of cinnamon
6 cardamom pods
12 whole allspice
½ tsp coriander seeds
½ tsp dill seeds

Put ½ pt/140ml vinegar, sugar and spices in a stainless steel saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the rest of the vinegar. Cool, strain and bottle.

Aromatic pickling vinegar
(makes 1pt/570 ml)
1pt/570ml vinegar
1tbsp whole allspice
1tbsp coriander seeds
1tbsp cumin seeds
1tbsp mustard seeds
1tbsp black peppercorns
6 cloves
6 bay leaves
6 juniper berries, crushed

Proceed as above. This recipe is very good with walnuts, capers and nasturtium seeds. Hotter pickles can be made by increasing the amount of pepper, ginger and mustard seed, and with the addition of dried chillies.

HERE is a simple version of pickling walnuts. Leaving them in the sun is what gives them the characteristic blackness. The walnuts are usually ready in late June or early July. They must be picked before their case begins to harden and should be soft enough to insert the blunt end of a needle.

Pickled walnuts
(makes 2lb/900g)
2lb/900g green walnuts



2pt/1.15l standard brine (see previous recipe)
2pt/1.15l unstrained sweet pickling vinegar (see previous recipe)

Soak the walnuts in brine for four or five days, drain them and put in the sun for two to three days to dry and blacken, then pack them into jars. Pour boiling, sweet pickling vinegar over the walnuts and distribute the spices, evenly if possible. Cover and seal while still hot. The pickles should be kept for a month before using in order to be fully mature; they will keep unopened for one or two years.

Pickled samphire
(makes 2lb/900g)
2lb/900g samphire
6oz/170g coarse salt
up to 2pt/570ml cold, plain, sweet pickling vinegar (see previous recipe)

Pick over the samphire, discarding any soggy pieces and roots. Rinse

free of sand and mud, and gently towel dry. Put the samphire in a dish and sprinkle with salt. Leave overnight. Next day, drain and dry, pack into jars and pour the vinegar over. Cover and seal. This is ready to use within a few days and will also keep until next summer.

IF PICKLING does not appeal, gathering fresh herbs is a simple task and a fragrant one. My neighbour, Mona, sent over a bag of mixed herbs, bronze fennel, two kinds of mint, marjoram, chives, rosemary and lovage. I used some of them in a meal that I put together in less than 30 minutes. Admittedly, the first course was antipasto: Felino salami, Parma ham, miniature mozzarella, tomatoes with taste and French breakfast radishes. But in the water, which I had put on to boil for the pasta, I cooked courgettes and asparagus (to serve with olive oil),

which then produced a well-flavoured water for the pasta, to which I also added lovage and fennel stalks. This is the sauce I made for the pasta.

Herb and gorgonzola sauce
(serves 2)
handful of fresh herbs
a few grains of coarse salt
1-2 spring onions, chopped
1-2tbsp cream or crème fraîche
3-4oz/85-110g gorgonzola cheese

Tear up the herbs and put them in a mortar. Grind with the salt and spring onions, and then blend in the cream until you have a pale green paste. Stir this into freshly cooked, drained pasta, and then stir in the gorgonzola, which will immediately melt in the hot pasta. Serve immediately. I used chervil and basil in the sauce as well as fennel, lovage (good with blue cheese), chives and marjoram.

Fishing for a compliment

Dover sole needs little more than butter and lemon

LE REPERTOIRE de la cuisine, the indispensable manual for those working in a classical French kitchen, lists nearly 350 ways of preparing sole. Some sound less appealing than others. Sole Archiduc, for example, has the sole poached in madeira, whisky, port and fish stock. The cooking liquor is reduced, butter, cream, and a brunoise of truffles and vegetables is added, and the fish is coated with this sauce. Cecil Rhodes has a sole dish named after him (tosters, asparagus and truffles) as did Louis XIV and XV. Alphonse XIII, Pierre le Grand and Nelson.

Cream, truffles, lobster, oysters, mushrooms and crayfish are frequently used as garnishes, but not all the dishes are so rich and complicated. Sole Bordelaise has the sole poached in red wine with shallots and then coated with the reduced cooking juices. Sole Bourguignonne, too, is delicious. I once ate it on the terrace at the Hôtel de Poste in Beaune, cooked

FRANCE

GREAT CLASSICS

SOLE A LA MEUNIÈRE

by M Chevallier. The whole fish was poached in red burgundy this time, and the sauce made with the cooking juices, small onions and button mushrooms.

However, with our wonderful Dover sole, there are many, myself included, who believe that sole is at its best when cooked as simply as possible. Cooking it à la meunière shows it off to perfection.

This is not an easy dish to cook for more than two people unless you have several frying pans and some help with dishing up.

Sole à la meunière
(serves 2)
2 x 10-12oz/280-340g soles, skinned, cleaned and trimmed
½ pt/70ml milk
pinch of salt
2tbsp flour
freshly ground pepper
3oz/85g butter
1tbsp finely chopped parsley or chervil
lemon wedges

Put the milk in a shallow dish with the salt, and dip the fish in it, then in the flour, coating them well. Season lightly with pepper. Have the butter melted and hot, but not burning, in a frying pan, and fry the fish on both sides until done to your liking. Serve on heated plates with the butter poured over the fish, some chopped herbs and the lemon.

F.B.

Wines that grow old gracefully

Germany's Mosel wines are prized for their long life — but the young varieties are equally impressive

Wine-growers from the leading estates of the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer region of Germany treated me to two tastings on successive days recently. On the first day we tasted rarities, historic vineyards from the growers' own private cellars. On the second we tasted the same estates' current offerings.

The rarities were from vineyards as far back as 1937, with the youngest wine dating from 1979. Wilhelm Haag, president of the Grosser Ring founded in 1908 as an association of the elite estates owning the region's finest vineyards, introduced the wines with the uncompromising claim: "Ours are the longest lived wines in the world."

That could be disputed, but the tasting proved that, their reputation for lightness and delicacy notwithstanding, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer wines of past decades were built to last.

The vineyards on the steeply sloping, slatey banks of the Mosel and its two tributaries generally give wines that are less sweet and more refreshingly acidic than wines from other areas of Germany. The higher up the river courses you go, the more piercing the acidity generally becomes, and it is the acidity which lends long life to the wines and, Germans would claim, to those who drink them.

The tasting also gave the lie to the claim advanced by champions of Germany's generally dislikeable *rocken* wines that fine German wines

were traditionally vinified dry. The wines we were shown almost all had considerable residual sweetness, and could not have retained their vitality and appeal without it.

I still remember the first Mosel wine I ever drank, as a schoolboy on a Rhine cruise in the 1950s. I was given a glass by a German vicar, who must have been a connoisseur. It tasted like summer lightning.

I relived the experience 35 years on, tasting S.A. Prüm's 1957 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling *natur* (which would now be called a Kabinett), still bright, refreshing and cleansing after all that time. Greater delights were to follow. From 17 wines in the tasting, I awarded marks reserved for outstanding to exceptional wines to no fewer than six. I found Weingut Forstmeister Gölz-Zilliken's 1971 Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese particularly opulent, powerful, rich and gummy. Weingut Mönchhof's 1969 Erdener Treppchen Riesling feinster Auslese was elegantly juicy, while and deliciously creamy.

Jos. Prüm's 1949 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese had the astonishing and unimpeachable purity that people must sense when they scent the odour of sanctity. Then there was the searing classical brilliance of Schloss Saarstein's 1971 Riesling Beerenauslese.

The oldest wine, Herr Haag's 1937 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese, did not score quite so

highly. It had taken on the burnish of old gold and a taste of whisky marmalade, yet remained delectable and lively after 55 years.

My highest marks went to a powerful and ripe 1973 Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese Eiswein from the Weingut Egon Müller-Scharzhof, and to a 1976 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese from the Weingut Maximilianhof Suder-Prüm. To sip this last wine, a piercingly lucid and luscious dessert wine, was a glorious experience, and I do not for a moment doubt the suggestion put forward by Gerd Studert, who presented the wine, that it is good for at least another 50 years.

Do present-day offerings measure up? My impression is that some do. The 1991 vintage is lighter than its three excellent predecessors, but has produced abundant Kabinett wines of slender and supple charm. There are outstanding, rich and powerful wines to be had from the super vineyards of 1988, 1989 and 1990.

I was particularly impressed with the superb wines of Joh. Jos. Prüm. Though Herr Doktor Manfred Prüm, who is now in charge, thought it too early to show any of his 1991s, the estate's 1990s are superbly rich, clean and delicious. I again had very high marks for the Weingut Mönchhof, whose 1991 Urziger Würzger Riesling Kabinett I found exceptionally character-



Fruitful slopes: the steep and slatey banks of the Mosel

ful and spicy for the vintage. And I still very much liked the wines from Weingut Zilliken (formerly Forstmeister Gölz), especially a 1989 Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese distinguished with a *lange Goldkapsel* (long gold capsule, the winemakers' way round the law banning terms such as "feinste Auslese") and a searingly effective 1991 Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein.

Zilliken's wines are stocked by members of the Merchant Vintners' Group and Ballantynes of Cowbridge. Joh. Jos. Prüm's are imported by O.W. Loeb of 64 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 0AS; and Weingut Mönchhof are imported by Loeb and by Richards Walford of Manor House, Pickworth,

Stamford, Lincolnshire, and well represented in the lists of Lay & Wheeler and the Wine Society.

Others among these top Mosel estates, though, are no longer represented in Britain. Their fine wines have been lost to us in a tide of Liebfraumilch and oversulphured sugar water masquerading as "quality" wine on supermarket shelves. The message I brought away from my two tastings is that top-flight Mosel wines are not only long-lived. They are also delightful and delicious for drinking now. Without more ado I am going to adjourn to have a slice of duck pâté and a glass of Auslese. Why don't you join me?

ROBIN YOUNG

Best buys

● 1990 Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Kabinett, Summerlee Wines, Earls Barton, Northants, £6.31 Wine of scintillatingly sharp distinction from the Saar valley, incisive, refreshing, delicious.

● 1989 Urziger Würzger Riesling Kabinett, Mönchhof, Lay & Wheeler, £7.31 Fresh, pure, stylish wine with long, ripe flavours of flowers and honey. From the first of three exceptional Mosel vineyards, a classic example of the world's lightest fine wine.

● 1990 Urziger Würzger Riesling Spätlese, Mönchhof, Lay & Wheeler, £11.35 Very flavoursome, marmalade wine, with an exotically spicy and powerful complexity of flavours.

● 1990 Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese, Fritz Haag, Lay & Wheeler, £18.15 Exquisitely ripe, round, rich wine from a master wine-maker. Drink this with ham, duck, turkey, foie gras or fruit tarts.

● 1983 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Wine Society, £14.80 J.J. Prüm's peerless wines are always backward in development, but well worth waiting for. This splendid example is now ready to drink, and immaculate.

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Colouring the rainbow: Julia Sargent (centre), of the Little Wittenham nature reserve, and a group of helpers paint the American Indians' symbol of world union

Weekend with the warriors

American Indians are at large in Oxfordshire to show the palefaces how to live closer to the wild. Jane Bidder reports

Oxfordshire is not the most likely place to find a genuine American Indian family teaching children how to make maps with sticks and perform the Rainbow Dance. But that's what you will find if you venture down to Little Wittenham, near Abingdon, today or tomorrow, when the village's 250-acre nature reserve celebrates its tenth anniversary with a "Warriors of the Wild" weekend.

The reason, according to Julia Sargent, is that "we wanted to find a theme which would make children more aware of their world environment". Ms Sargent is education and interpretation officer for the reserve, which is owned by the Northmoor Trust and was established to conserve and display wildlife. "American Indians seemed ideal because they live so close to nature."

But how does one find a born-and-bred brave and squaw? By chance. Ms Sargent saw a local newspaper story about an American Indian. Alan Blackhorse, who

had been visiting a nearby school. Mr Blackhorse and his wife, Dee, help to run a company called American West, which visits schools and youth clubs to describe and perform native customs.

"One myth which they try to dispel is that all Indians are savage," Ms Sargent says. "They'd rather be called North American Indians than the schoolboy name of Red Indian."

The Blackhorses' services have been much in demand, because of a section within the schools' National Curriculum on American Indians. Indeed, business is so good that Blackhorse Brave now uses a mobile telephone instead of smoke signals. He also, rather disappointingly, lives in a house, not a wigwam, in Shropshire, near other countrymen who have formed a group called the Pow Wow Circuit.

Mr Blackhorse and friends agreed to participate as Warriors of the Wild during the weekend programme, which is aimed at children aged from six upwards (although younger siblings are welcome). Visiting adults and children are asked to dress in rainbow colours. According to native American legend, rainbows are a symbol of union, indicating that the world is one big family (the environmental theme again).

Journeys are another Indian fascination. On arrival, families will make a "journey" across the reserve before meeting at a giant central teepee (wigwam) to discuss what they saw en route.

Mr Blackhorse and company will explain how to make maps out of sticks to record the journey, followed by a dance/march/chant routine.

At this point, the Royal Opera

House steps in. This may seem an unlikely combination, but music is another vital ingredient of American Indian life. After encouraging children to make up their own Indian music and song, the singer Glenys Groves of the ROH, which is helping to sponsor the weekend, will then (bravely) sing the results.

Among other attractions throughout the weekend are pond dipping to examine the waterlife, scavenger hunts (to see what nature gems can be found within the reserve's beautiful meadows and woodlands), and a nature trail to spot deer tracks, chalk grassland flowers, butterflies (27 of the 56 British species hover here), and birds (120 different varieties, including kestrels).

Families are also allowed to walk freely: the reserve is always open to

the public for dog-walking, kite-flying or merely ambling. Look out for the Poem Tree where one Joseph Tubbs, from nearby Warborough Green, carved his heart out (metaphorically speaking) in 1844, and Castle Hill, the site of an Iron Age hillfort.

Parents and children are encouraged to continue studying the environment through their car windows on the way home. The view may be less inviting than the Oxfordshire countryside but, as an American Indian proverb puts it: "The most important reason for going from one place to another is to see what's in between." This is wisdom worth remembering in the heat of a car journey, when the children are scrapping and you cannot see the end of that traffic jam.

• "Warriors of the Wild", Little Wittenham Nature Reserve, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4RA (0867 307792). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adults £2, child free. Wear loose clothing (in rainbow colours) and sensible footwear. Take a packed lunch.

Events

LONDON

□ Space play: The Theatre Centre presents *The Visitor*, a musical-visual performance set in outer space, for the eight to 11-year-olds. Old Bull Arts Centre, 68 High Street, Barnet (081-449 0248). Tomorrow 3pm. £2.50.

□ Paddington festival: Chums, jugglers, stilt-walkers, unicyclists, street bands and other performers celebrate National Music Day. Paddington recreation grounds, Maida Vale, W9, tomorrow, noon-6pm.

□ Putney piece: Stalls, fun-fair, handstand, arts and crafts, and street entertainers. Lower Common, Putney, SW15. Today, tomorrow, noon-7pm. Free.

□ Pavement artists: Watch or join in this competition for young people. Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road entrance, SW7 (071-938 9123). Tomorrow, 1-5pm.

NATIONWIDE

□ Bolsover pageant: Medieval knights and ladies, drama, dancing and a mini-tournament. Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire (0246 823349). Today, tomorrow, from 2pm. £3, child £1.50.

□ Bridlington birds: Three-hour RSPB boat trip to the seabird colony at Flamborough Head. Bridlington Pier, Humberside. Tomorrow, 10.30am, £7, child £3.50. Book on 0522 535540.

□ Castle Eden creepy-crawlies: Track down bugs and beetles with Bruce Ferguson, the warden. Castle Eden Walkway Country Park, Cleveland, tomorrow 2pm. Book on 0740 34011.

□ Enfield activity day: Learn about a variety of reptiles and amphibians. Gardening show for adults. Capel Manor Environmental Centre, Theobalds Park, Enfield, Middlesex (0992 763849). Children: today, 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm. Adult: £3, child £1.50. Garden show today and tomorrow, 10am-6pm.

□ Histon happenings: Sheep shearing and folk dancing tomorrow add to the many permanent attractions. Histon Country World, near Wansick (0246 843411). Open daily 10am-5.30pm. £2.20, child £1.20. Family £5.50.

□ Hoddeston music "Musicalcore": A festival event at which to learn to compose and read music. Ryecliffe Caves, High Street, Hoddeston, Herts. Tomorrow, 2-5pm. £1, child £2. Booking and information on 0942 441940.

□ Keighley garden party: Help to build a collage for the National Trust landscape year theme. First Riddleston Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley, W. Yorks (0535 407051). Tomorrow, 1-5pm. £1.50, child £1.50.

□ Old Sarum's Hardy: The romance of rural England in high summer recreated at Thomas Hardy's "Old Melchester". Music, dancing, costume characters and entertainers. Period costume welcome. Old Sarum, near Salisbury. Wilt (0722 335398). Today, tomorrow from 2pm. £3, child £1.50. Bring a picnic.

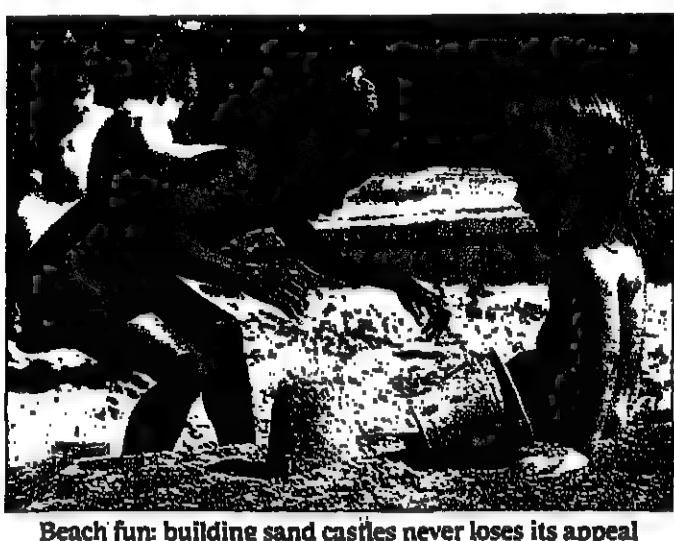
□ Penworth/The Times concert: National Music Day celebration, with Johnny Morris narrating and David Arnold conducting the Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra. Take ready-bears and picnic. Penworth House, Penworth, West Sussex. Tomorrow, 8pm. £7, child five-13 £3, family £18.50. Check ticket availability and book on 0798 43748.

□ Shipton picnic: Visitors are encouraged to dress in Edwardian costume, take a picnic and spend the afternoon in the grounds. Crummet and its music. Bevington Hall, Shipton, Wilt. Tomorrow, 1-5pm. £2.50, child £1.20.

□ St Mawes story-telling: Traditional stories, folk tales and myths told by Rough Magic in aid of English Heritage restoration. St Mawes Castle, Cornwall (0326 271526). Tomorrow from 2.30pm. £2, child £1.

□ Tynemouth Redcoats: The 68th Company demonstrate drill, musket firing and the off-duty life of the Duke of Wellington's light infantry during the Napoleonic wars. Tynemouth Castle, Tyne & Wear (091-257 0800). Today, tomorrow from 2pm. £3, child £1.50.

JUDY FROSHAUG



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LADIES

ALL RIGHT, so I'm not a 23 year old blonde but I do have a great mind and a reasonable body. If you're a winner looking for a (lovely) independent, non-possessive, fun-loving lady, then please write to me. Reply to Box No 9175.

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FRENCH-BORN

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SUCCESSFUL

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NOTES

WHERE TO WALK

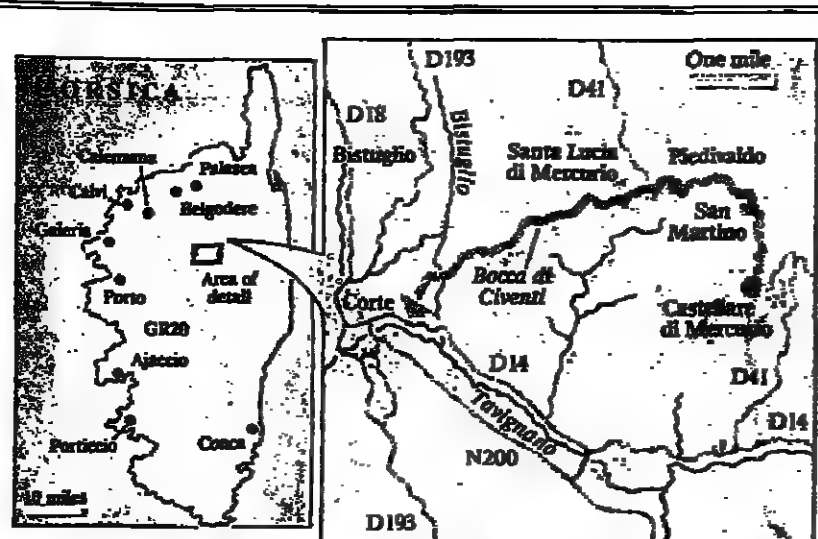
In one of his rare flights of fancy Napoleon remarked that he would know Corsica from all other places in the world, simply from the smell of the maquis. The maquis is that cloak of scrub, herbs and wild flowers that covers all but the tops of the mountains in this most mountainous of Mediterranean islands. Walkers tend to view the maquis in a less romantic light, as it rips the trousers and winds around the ankles and makes difficult walking more difficult still.

Corsica can also lay claim to the most challenging of all the long walks on the Grande Randonnée, the 120 miles of the GR20, which runs right across the island from Calenzana to Conca and will take any sensible walker about three weeks. Those who fancy something rather less challenging should take the train to Corte.

The train from Ajaccio is a challenge in itself, a crammed mountain train filled with a mass of holiday-makers. Having fought my way on board I made the trip hanging on grimly to a large and scowling Foreign Legionnaire, who was scowling because my companion was talking animatedly to his girlfriend. This gave me an early introduction to two of the rules for walking in Corsica: always have a companion and never talk to the girlfriend of a Foreign Legionnaire.

Corte is a mountain town, clinging to a sharp spur of rock above the Tavignano river. It was once the capital of Corsica during that brief period when the island was fully independent under the leadership of Pasquale Paoli, who is far more famous hereabouts than Napoleon Bonaparte. Corte today is a farming centre and the departure point for expeditions into the Regional Nature Park, so my first stop was at the Information Centre to enquire about the local walks. The most popular local walk is a mere two-hour stroll from the chapel of Ste Croix in the town centre along the north bank of the river to the Tavignano gorge. For something rather more testing there is the ridge walk back to Corte from the village of Castellare di Mercurio.

To get to the start of this walk it is necessary to take a taxi from Corte for the 12 miles of winding road to Castellare, a useful introduction to the fact that in Corsica places that seem near enough to touch across the valley can take half a day to reach by road. Early starts are always advisable in the southern mountains, and by 9am we were starting up the steep slope from Castellare at 600m and following the yellow waymarks to the chapel at San Martino, which stands at more than 900m. This is a fairly gasping start to the walk, but no more testing than the equally steep descent to the scattering of houses at Piedvaldo, back at the 600m mark. This set the pattern for the walk and so it continued, up and down to the village of Santa Lucia at 830m, where we stopped for coffee and swigs of water before setting off again.



Making cow's eyes in the maquis: walkers need trousers and water

From Santa Lucia it is vaguely downhill all the way, with ever-shorter ascents as the track rolls on to the col at Bocca di Civiati. This is a breezy spot, offering fine views over the surrounding mountains and great lungfuls of maquis-scented air. A clearly defined track now leads down to the valley of the Bistuglio.

From the streams there is one last and easy climb to another col and then the path runs out on to the CD14 road, a kilometre outside Corte. Ten minutes later we were sluicing off the dust at the Quatre Canons fountain in the town centre and looking around for lunch. Eight miles in five hours across the mountains can give a chap an appetite.

This walk can be found in a topographic guide, *Walks in Corsica* (published by Robertson McCarty in its Footpaths of Europe series, £7.95). A useful map would be the IGN 1:25,000 scale map *Corsica-Monte Cinto* (£6.95). Footpath guides and IGN maps are available from Standfords Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP (071-836 1321). Another useful book is *Landscapes of Corsica* by Noël Rodford (Sunflower Books, £7.95). Walkers in Corsica should not go alone and will need boots, a shady hat and a water bottle. Trousers offer better protection than shorts. Information on local walks from the Nature Park Information Centre in Corte, open from May to the end of November.

WHAT TO BUY

Corsic shoes, clogs — mainly in the southeast.

Honey: from the maquis, from wild flowers (de Clementini, Maquis).

Liqueurs: myrtle, chestnut, lemon.

Herbs: lavender sachets, scented soap, maquis wild herbs.

Pottery: artisanal from mountain areas.

Food: blackbird pâté, wild boar pâté, Charcuterie, especially goat. Cheese: Casgiu di Capra Cepigursinu; Fiori di Montagna; Muntagnolu. Confiture: de châtaignes et miel; raisins aux amandes. Tomato seeds: especially Sainte Pierre, marketed by Les Doigts Verts.

Markets: Good covered fish market in Ajaccio: 8am-midday at Halles aux Poissons. Open every day. Next door is the open market (8am-midday): flowers, hams, olives, bread, cheeses, pâtés, fruit, vegetables.

CORSICA

Michael Watkins braves the dangerous beauty of an island he last encountered nearly 20 years ago, and finds the pace of progress slow, and himself still a stranger

On Friday June 30, 1972, the world came to unworried Bastianica. Watched by madame, their two children and a committee of village liberals, M. Taddei, who is patron of the Bar U'Licciu, switched on television for the first time. A grey snowstorm flickered into images of disaster: a train crash near Lyons, an African massacre, M. Pompidou being unkind about sailing. At his table, Thoma, the postman, gulped pastis and spat disgustedly, because no one had said *bonjour*. In the kitchen Mme Taddei's soufflé *au fromage*, defeated by neglect and the force of gravity, weakly subsided.

I know these things happened because I was there, and afterwards I wrote that Bastianica would never be quite the same. But in this concession I overlooked Corsica's stamina to resist innovation. When Thoma hawked so eloquently, his contempt was reinforced by something below consciousness, by an avianism that entered his bloodstream long before birth, a kind of barbarism which defied trespass in any disguise. One should not lose sight of the blood feud, vendetta, precipitated by trespass upon a woman's honour — but equally for a cow, a dog, a tree.

The last (acknowledged) murder by vendetta, the feud of which dragged on for ten years, occurred in 1954 at Moca Croce, near Ajaccio, when Jules Ghily killed Joseph Susini over a donkey's trespass into his garden. Earlier this century, 17 men were murdered in dispute about ownership of a chestnut tree. Consider, then, the blood feud that would erupt over a viewing contest between *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

Apprehensive of the changes I should find, of a dilution in the stern character of a community, I was in no hurry to return to Bastianica. I gave it 20 years, time enough for that snow flurry in the Bar U'Licciu to settle. Then, arriving in Calvi, I took the long way round, dawdling through the exquisite month of May, before the withering heat of summer. February brings the "white spring", sung by the Corsican poet Diane de Cutoli, when almond blossom and white heather appear; then asphodels and golden broom feverishly ignite the maquis until doused by the drenching blaze of June. There is magic in May. The air is fresh; everything is light, even widow women in the black of mourning seem lighter in step. Optimism is pervasive, weightless. It would be very ungrateful to end one's life in May.

Just past L'Île Rousse the mountain road inconsiderately plunged into the sea. Diversion signs led me astray for miles and miles along a serpentine route blocked by cows clanking necklaces of bells, past goats with terminally mad yellow eyes. Crumbling dry-stone walls marked coveted boundaries in the arid maquis. There were smears of smoke, spiralling like incense from the brush. No people, not a soul.

It was a fine place to be, immensely quiet. I should have packed some bread and cheese, a bottle of pink Patrimonia wine, got drunk and crooned myself to sleep in a hedgerow; but I am a poor provider, stumbling on instead to St Florent where I caused a traffic

jam by sneaking down a one-way street towards the harbour. They were tolerant drivers, no one tooted or opened up with a carbine; they shrugged, allowing me to back the way I had come. It was May, you see, the reasonable month before tempers flare. I had wanted to see the gilt statue of St Flor, the martyred Roman soldier, in the Pisan cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta; but the doors were locked.

I took half a day to nose round Cap Corse. You could do it quicker, but you'd be hazy to try: it is too dangerously beautiful. Treat this road with respect or it could do for you, spreading you like strawberry jam on rocks far below. I had re-learned as much by Nonza, which posed photographically above sheer rock face, medieval, impregnable. In Nonza I bought a bread roll, 12 inches long, unbuttered in the stingy French way, a little pink tongue of ham lolling out at one end, so that it resembled a legless, thirsty dachshund. The French may be stingy, but they are not vandals; at least, Corsican French aren't. Perhaps this is because they are, at heart, more Genoese than French, touched with the Italian genius for preservation.

Towards Centuri-Port I was overcome with nostalgia, recall-

ing that 20 years from now I might be brittle. That cheered me up and we talked about the weather, how little snow had fallen these past few winters. They did not recognise me, why should they? Some tourists must pass through Bastianica, swinging from one remote village to the next, motorised Tarzans.

It dawned on me that, except in particulars, Bastianica had not changed since the Dark Ages. You belong or you are a stranger; there is no other way; you could not ingratiate yourself, become a familiar. Not for a million francs. I dare say that there was not a new house since my last visit. The church was still locked. The few inhabitants hung on by a thread, not having much, not seeming to want much more.

If I smelled no fresh paint, neither did I detect the corrosive whiff of bitterness. Life went on, leaving the imprint of a few human details: a birth, a marriage, a death, a scrap of dirt, a touch of glory. I talked to a man with six dogs, whacking great animals that cost a mint to feed; they were not working dogs, just pets, to be exercised, inoculated against rabies, loved. I could not say if he was happy; his dogs certainly were, thumping their tails in chorus whenever he opened his mouth. I could not begin to define Bastianica's priorities.

That night I put my head down at E Caselle, near Venaco, a converted farmhouse constructed, it seemed, in the vernacular style by hurling large, round stones into walls of cement. Not pretty, but in a wildly marvellous position, enclosed in a valley, the River Vecchio pounding by. It was not especially comfortable, but not spartan. It was full of earnest guests in spectacles, mostly British, who walked five hours a day, looking at bushes, birds and flowers.

My guidebook was rather fulsome about Corte, 15 minutes away: "Corte capitale de l'ancien royaume de Corse est qualifiée de cœur de la Corse." But this printed eulogy was outdated, had descended into history, as the clay tablets of Ur. The word I had in mind was *passé*. Standing before the statue of the 18th-century patriot Pascal Paoli in the Place Paoli, I took in the pock-marked houses veneered with mildew, walls peeling with the leprosy of neglect. A smart hike up the broken cobbles of the rue Solisica brought me to the Place Gaffory, to the 15th-century Church of the Annunciation which I should have admired and would have been glad to admire but for the patina of exhaustion which clung to the fabric. Corte is tired, I thought, its heart is beating feebly; it is has-been — which is odd, for university towns usually burn with the fevers of will-be.

Driving to Ajaccio, keeping the snowline of Monte D'Oro in sight, I stopped for coffee near Vizzavona, at the Hotel du Monte D'Oro, where once I had stayed, sleeping in a bed as rumpled as an old St Bernard dog, a window opening on to pines and distant peaks sharp as milk teeth. The guidebook described the hotel's food as "Accurate Cuisine". It had not changed. There was an elderly couple on the terrace: he was reading Stendhal, I could see the cover; she was doing her postcards. Probably, they had been together for ever; yet it

PASSPORT TO FRANCE

Natural attractions include the price

The third largest island in the Mediterranean, Corsica (La Corse), is more Italian than French. A sparsely populated mountainous island, with deep valleys and densely wooded slopes, it is about 120 miles off the southeastern Mediterranean coast of France — closer to the Italian mainland than it is to France.

Property prices in Corsica, however, are lower than they are on the Côte d'Azur — £150,000 is the top price, and there is plenty around for less than £30,000.

The island's climate is mild, with long, hot, dry summers and relatively short winters. It is well worth considering for those seeking a peaceful holiday home in beautiful surroundings. You can sid in the mountains of Haute Corse in January and

PROPERTY

February, while the sea is warm enough for swimming from early May to the end of November.

With 600 miles of coastline, scooped by wide bays and white sandy beaches, and a rugged interior covered with white heather, wild flowers and sweet-smelling shrubs, Corsica is becoming a sought-after holiday-home area for the Italians, and prices are rising.

The British market for Corsican property, although still small, is also growing. There are no high-rise apartment blocks along the coast, and only a handful of developments geared specifically to the foreign investor — the kind that offer a mix of apartments and villas, with communal gardens and a swim-

ming-pool. However, there are plenty of old stone village houses, rustic villas and even the occasional olive mill to be found in the mountains and villages.

Some of the best property buys are in the northwest of the island, in the Balagne, around the ancient harbour town of Calvi. The cheapest property you could buy here would be a *pailler*, an old stone-built shepherd's hut on a remote hillside, for about £11,000. Most have beautiful views; some of the larger ones have water and electricity, and these cost from £20,000, with enough land to graze a few sheep.

In the hills, a few miles inland from the coast, are numerous old towns and villages, usually clustered round a church. Unrestored village houses, typically built on three floors,

Patterns of island life: boat



Unchanging horizons: lunt

seemed that their time was beginning. At Porticchio, half an hour from Ajaccio, I had a most stroke of luck by booking in Le Maquis. I thought this id of hotel no longer existed, it ly-run and perfect in every w They gave me room one, a white room with a balcony above the sea, the furniture and cared for. Dinner w served on a candlelit terrace from where I could smell ferns perhaps it flavoured the *arte de poissons au caviar*. Maquis was understated: it the picture hanging in room, a portrait of a nak woman by Rives, spare of it witty, suggestive, in the way Cocteau. No one postured as Maquis. The sea was brilliant clear, too. In the morn before the early delivery of *café au lait*, I swam in the to demonstrate my confid



Living the high life: there

with six rooms, vaulted ceiling, ornate wrought-iron balcon and breathtaking views, but garden, can be picked up to little as £30,000. A larger house, in good condition, with modernised kitchen and covered terrace and a sn garden will cost about £60,000. Corsican farmhouses, largely built of granite, rang in colour from cream to d

Le Times

avec une carotte.

THE TIMES

No. 64,371

MONDAY JUNE 29 1992

45p

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WHERE TO STAY



Worth every franc: the stylish interior of family-run Le Maquis, a real "find"

- **Le Maquis**, 20166 Porticcio (95 25 05 55). This is my find of the year. Family-operated, swimming-pools, tennis court, sandy beach. Expensive but worth it. Suites for two, half-board, from £264 a night, double room from £200.
- **La Caravelle**, 20260 Calvi (95 65 01 21). Small family-run hotel, clean, simple food, small garden, friendly staff. Double room, h/b, £80.
- **Hotel du Monte D'Oro**, Vizzavona, 20219 Col de Vizzavona (95 47 21 06). Virtually unchanged for 20 years, comfortable, spartan in the way of a boarding school. Double room, h/b, £79.
- **Hotel Pietracap**, 20300 Pietranera, Bastia (95 31 64 63). Modern hotel set in attractive gardens; good swimming-pool. Room only, double, from £52.
- **Pasotel E Caselle**, 20231 Venaco (95 47 03 01). Set in mountain scenery, farmhouse style. Double room only, from £40.
- **Eden Rock**, Route des Iles-Sanguinaires, 20000 Ajaccio (95 52 01 47). Professional hotel with marvellous coastal views, jacket and tie requested for dinner. Double room, h/b, £184.
- **Hotel la Villa**, 20260 Calvi (95 65 10 10). Incomparable view of Calvi, understated elegance, good food, smooth service. Double room, h/b, £216.
- Recommended campsites from tourist offices: Ajaccio, 6 Park Belvedere (95 21 19 87); Bastia, Place St Nicholas (95 31 81 34); Calvi, Port de Plaisance (95 65 16 67); Corte, Lieu-Dit Citadelle (95 26 41 31); Porticcio, Marina Viva (95 25 07 02).

WHEN TO GO

MAY is the best month for wild flowers and modest heat (20C). September is an equally attractive month after the hordes have fled. Best to avoid July and August, when roads are crowded and it is virtually impossible to find impromptu accommodation.

Check the dates of motor rallies, when it is advisable to avoid mountain roads. Local tourist offices will supply details of festivals, but note in Calvi on Good Friday the great penitents' procession, and from August 15-18 the festival of the Assumption of the Virgin, with three days of games, fireworks and processions.

HOW TO GET THERE

MICHAEL Watkins's itinerary was tailor-made by Falcon Corsica (part of Owners Abroad Holidays), which has been market leader to Corsica for a decade. Flights were with Air 2000.

Falcon Corsica's summer '92 programme offers a choice of 12 resorts, a new range of two-centre options, and "Freewheeler" holidays, combining a car with accommodation vouchers for use at a number of hotels on the island.

Flights are from Gatwick and Manchester; prices start at £179 for adults and £79 for children for seven nights in Calvi, depending on dates of travel.

Reservations: 071-221 6298. Brochure requests: 0293 522311. Europcar offers a Peugeot 106 at about £195 for seven days. Available at Calvi airport.

WHAT TO READ

THE most useful guide I could lay my hands on was *Corse*, published by Editions Marcus, 15 rue Faraday, 75017 Paris. The great classic *Grande Island* by Dorothy Carrington — published in 1984 by Penguin Travel Library — is a splendid book but extremely difficult to get. First researched in the 1940s, its author still lives in Ajaccio. Fodor's *France* includes a small, useful section on Corsica. Michelin Green Guide is available in French. *Landscapes of Corsica* compiled by Noel Rochford (Sunflower Books, £6.95) is informative on car tours, walks and picnics.

WHAT TO DO

SEE the coast from the sea: especially the Calanques of Scandola, the northern limit of Corsica's Natural Regional Park, inaccessible by road, inhabited by rare species of eagles and seagulls. Reservations from Calvi Quai Landry, (95 65 28 16). Water-skiing at Les Marines, Porticcio (95 25 02 40). Golf at Cala Stella (95 60 75 52). Riding at Calvi (95 65 22 22). Riding at Porticcio (95 25 11 05). The giant aquarium at L'ile-Rousse (95 60 27 81). All such information from local tourist offices.

See the island by train: Opened in 1888, 230km of track, 12 bridges, 38 tunnels. Starts at sea level, cuts through Corsica's heart, culminating at Vizzavona, then returning to sea level. The most famous viaduct is the Pont du Vecchio, 96m high, built by Gustave Eiffel in 1888.



Boats crowd the harbour at Calvi in high season, but in May's "white spring" a scented peace reigns, heady with eucalyptus, lavender and woodsmoke



Unusually free from the sea, and in the village of Bustanico (right), nothing has altered — despite the arrival of television in 1972 — since the Dark Ages

the Mediterranean and the continent. In Ajaccio's market, I bought Napoleon's birthplace. Those awful and narrow Empire and a few old medallions, a mask, the ticket-seller guides wet dehumanised; spectators idiosyncratic. I was up with Napoleon. I paid to see his memory once or all the time I went to Les ides, when his ashes lie in coffins. I didn't realise it was so much of him. No earthy good thinking remains of distance in Corsica. It is of the essence. There was a true in returning to Calvi. I had one, so I took the road back the distance 186km, thence, excluding for lunch was four and a hours of goat-tracking. It was glorious drive.

On my Richter scale of memorable drives, it must rate pretty near the top. But you must concentrate; it is a wicked, wicked way down; and the Corsican brothers drive as if they have infallible faith in the resurrection.

I stopped for lunch at Galeria, a fishing village stranded on the tides of progress: it had a wide bay, a cemetery with a terrific view, it was very calm. *Le loup de mer* was basic, the waitress smiling. I ate mussels, dunking bread into gungy sauce. After which I stunk of garlic.

On the final lap to Calvi across the maquis, I let loose my imagination, which traversed a time zone to a cluster of stone cottages, harsh and foreboding, with black-shrouded women whispering in doorways. The

men are idle, mentally, physically idle, many carrying carbines because they are hunters. A quarrel starts — a question of trespass or a virgin's honour. A shot explodes into the choking silence and, as a body crumples into the dust, a figure runs for the maquis. The dead man's family are bloodied with his gore, as is the custom, and the declaration of vendetta is sworn: "Garde-toi, je me garde!" The bandit d'honneur will pursue vengeance until the last of his days, and then his profane destiny will pass to his son and his grandson.

Peace rules Corsica today; yet something ruthlessly assertive remains in remote villages like Bustanico, so that you drive away feeling that you have seen only what you intended to see. You can still buy stilettos with "Death to my enemy" inscribed upon the blades.

EATING OUT

● Considering Corsica's influences from Genoa and France, its food is a disappointment. Referring to a not-unknown restaurant, one guide mentions the "accurate cooking". In my experience, it is more miss than hit.

● I ate memorably well at Le Maquis in Porticcio: try the ragout d'oignons des paysans, tartare de poissons au caviar and tanu de poitrine de veau aux olives de Balagua — all house specialities.

● The recently opened Hotel La Villa at Calvi is rapidly gaining a reputation: brilliant duck in honey sauce, superb warm salads. Restaurant Scudella in Corte's Place Paoli came up with a not-bad omelette made from wild mushrooms. The Eden Rock near Ajaccio was dull; the best they could think of the night I was there was chicken with a curry sauce. By and large it is best to stick to simple stuff: fairly reliable fish soup, onion soup, omelette, mussels, lobster (expensive), local pâté, goat cheese, fresh fish. Eating out is not cheap either: think in terms similar to provincial Britain.

● Unless you are fussy, go along with the local wines from Patrimonio, Balagne, Ajaccio, Sartene, Figari, Porto-Vecchio. You won't want a thumping red wine in the heat, so try the white — or best of all, the pink. The Patrimonio costs about £9.

olive mills, with original machinery intact, that would convert to attractive holiday homes. Many include sizeable acreages, and fetch from £40,000.

Seaside villas and apartments start at £25,000 for a one-bedroom flat and £50,000 for a small modern house at the edge of a beach. More exclusive homes, with neatly manicured lawns, five or six bedrooms and private pools, cost from £120,000.

The largest port on the island is Bastia; Ajaccio, Napoleon's birthplace, is the capital. You can take the car ferry from Nice (six and a half hours) or Marseilles (11 hours) to Bastia, Ajaccio and Calvi, but the cheapest and most convenient way to get to Corsica is by air. Charter flights operate from Gatwick, Manchester or Stansted to Bastia, Calvi or Ajaccio, from March to October. Alternatively, you can fly from Paris, Nice or Marseilles.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● One of the few UK agents with associates on the island is Corsica Properties, Great Beach, Birtle, east Sussex (04246 4363).



One of old stone houses for sale on the mountainous island

pink, with thick walls, a roof of tiles, misshapen shutters and huge fireplaces. Many include underground wine vaults and old houses with red ovens and tiles alongside, and cost from £20,000 upwards. Because of constant fear of attack from sign invaders, these old houses were traditionally topped into small hamlets, and there are few isolated properties.

Large country houses some distance inland, in need of renovation, with an acre or two of vines and fruit trees, can still be found for about £50,000. Fully restored, with three or four bedrooms and a swimming-pool, these cost from £90,000, a mile or so from the sea. There are also a few old unconverted

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Rosemary Alexander's Kent home provides a perfect setting to inspire green fingers in her gardening students, Eluned Price writes

Ancient seat of garden learning

Rosemary Alexander's country house is a 15th-century timber-framed hall house in Kent, rented from the National Trust and open to the public twice a week. The gang of labourers in Stoneacre's delightful gardens double-digging a trench to near-perfection have not been posted there by the nearest open prison. They are Mrs Alexander's students from the English Gardening School, which she runs at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. "They might look like a chain-gang," she laughs, "but actually they enjoy their time down here." Both garden design and practical horticulture are part-time courses based at Chelsea. Here, with an acre of cultivated garden of England, three acres of wild garden and a couple of fields, students can practise until their fingers turn green.

Mrs Alexander found Stoneacre four years ago. "We'd sold our farm in Essex and had a small house in London," she says. "I was becoming perfectly neurotic and couldn't survive without the country." Everything she saw was "a beautiful house in a ghastly place or vice versa. Then I saw Stoneacre. One glimpse through the wrought-iron gates and it was the whole intake-of-breath bit." Twenty out of 200 eager applicants went before a National Trust panel, "and we didn't get it." The new tenants took only six weeks to discover it was too much for them, so the Alexanders have been there ever since.

Stoneacre was given to the trust in 1928 by Aymer Vallance, an architectural aesthete who had restored the house using panelling, fireplaces and windows from other buildings and adding an entire Tudor wing, salvaged from North Bore Place. The Great Hall, of double height, is spanned by a giant oak tie-beam from which is suspended an ancient iron chandelier. Dinners in the Great Hall are lit only by its candles and the flicker of firelight from the vast stone chimney piece.

Despite sharing repairs — the trust is responsible for structural and the Alexanders for cosmetic — the rent is "fairly commercial". When they arrived the walls were spindly green and bitter chocolate brown, "because the previous tenant made lace" (these colours are the best against which to show lace). The contract to open the house twice a week is not as burdensome as it might seem. "You get used to it," Mrs Alexander says. "And we are very lucky in having volunteer guides and stewards from the trust's mid-Kent centre. Now we open the parlour and the solar, an upstairs room where the ladies customarily took the sun, as well." The solar doubles as Mrs Alexander's main guest room. "On open days they have to have their beds made by 1pm. I go and check," she says. When the grand-



Finding a country beauty: "When I saw Stoneacre," Rosemary Alexander says, "one glimpse through the wrought-iron gates and it was the whole intake-of-breath bit"

children — six of them under the age of four and a half — are in residence, a "Private" notice is slung over the gate to the grassed courtyard at the back, "and they can run in and out all day".

A grass path leads to the summerhouse in the wild garden, where the land falls away through the apple orchards to two ponds. There are two main gardens partially divided, as the house was at one time, by a Kentish ragstone wall. At the front, with a cobbled stone path running to the heavy oak door, is Mrs Alexander's

spring and autumn garden, all yellows and blues, with a mature ginkgo tree overhanging the lawn and a burst of philadelphus now throwing arcs of white, gold-hearted blossom over the wall.

"We inherited the framework of yew hedges and old wall," Mrs Alexander says. "It was nice not to have to spend ten years creating the structure." Stoneacre had not been lived in for three years when she arrived, and the garden was all nettles and brambles and ground elder. "It had been neglected long enough for the ecological balance

to sort itself out and it was full of bees and butterflies and birds. We try not to upset that, using weedkiller only on the paths but organic sprays for everything else."

She had begun planning before she discovered old reports on the garden by the horticulturalist Graham Stuart Thomas, adviser to the trust. "I was thrilled to find he'd suggested many of the plantings I planned, like lots of limey *Euphorbia robbiae* either side of the gate. I was convulsed by his polite recommendations that the football posts

on the main lawn be removed and the hens penned in." The summer garden takes in the Tudor addition and runs around the side of the house, but Mrs Alexander has made no attempt at horticultural Tudorism. "Much too dull," she says. "There were hardly any plants then anyway, except loads of Alexanders, a very boring kale-type vegetable." It is filled with masses of cottage flowers, such as columbine and foxglove, feverfew and lady's mantle, which holds the dew on the invisible down of its soft green leaf.

The buff brushes of fox-tail lilies wave against the wall of the house, thyme and pinks seed between the stones of the paths and old-fashioned roses, such as the double pale pink Celestial and the flat carmine flowers of Rosea de l'Hay, send wafts of sweet scent through the air. There are no climbers trained up the house: "The architecture is so enchanting it doesn't need statuary or ornament in any way."

● Stoneacre, Otford, nr Maidstone, Kent. Is open Wed and Sat 3-5pm, April-October.

Water Tower
East Grinstead

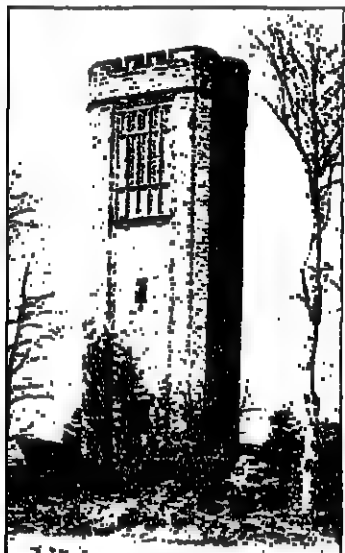
Dripping with potential

One might imagine that this tower was on the Welsh borders defending a hill-top castle, or was a folly in the Capability Brown-designed grounds of a stately home. In fact, it is a former water tower in the centre of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

On two sides of the Sackville Water Tower are private gardens. The other two adjoin a car-park, although it is separated by the 13ft-wide strip perimeter of land surrounding the tower. Such municipal proximity, plus the effort needed to convert the tower into a house, might dissuade potential buyers.

The existing structure is simply itself: there is an open-tread cast-iron staircase leading round the walls up to a 30,000-gallon water tank, which is now empty. However, while the prospect of conversion may seem daunting, the Landmark Trust has recently converted a number of towers for holiday rents, which have proved very popular, chiefly because of their spectacular views.

The tower was last used about 15 years ago and is now for sale through Savills' Sevenoaks office, by tender in sealed envelopes before



Tall storeys: the water tower

noon next Wednesday. A Savills' spokesman says: "It's impossible to put a price on it, but we are not expecting an awful lot of money — certainly less than £100,000."

A buyer would have to negotiate planning permission with Mid-Sussex District Council for change of use, but Richard Page of Savills, which is handling the sale, says the council is enthusiastic about issuing consent. "This is a listed Grade II building in a conservation area, and the council is keen that its future should be ensured. We have been told that a planning application would be favourably considered."

Any conversion would have to be in sympathy with the stone exterior of the building, which must remain largely unaltered, although it may be possible to put in extra windows in addition to the ones which already light the stairs. Inside constraints would be minimal. The 80ft tower would allow for probably four floors, each of 24sq ft, with the sitting room best suited to the top floor to take advantage of the views across the town to the Downs.

The battlemented roof terrace needs little alteration and is unencumbered with the telecommunications aerials which mar so many water towers, but the tower would need electricity and gas. The only amenity in place, unsurprisingly, is the water mains itself, which once fed the water tank.

RACHEL KELLY

● Savills (0732 455551)

Real world disappears in a sea of champagne

This newly built detached villa (pictured right) for sale at £318,000, including agency fees, is on a hillside with beautiful views over Pevero Bay, five minutes from the yacht harbour of Porto Cervo, in the caviare and champagne leisure colony of Sardinia's Costa Smeralda.

The Villa Corvi is rustic in style, with honey-stone walls beneath misshapen roof tiles, beamed ceilings and old terracotta-tiled floors. It has a lounge and dining-room, with open stone fireplaces, a designer kitchen, three bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, and a large basement with access to the quarters-acre garden that would easily convert to a self-contained apartment and a car-parking space. A swimming-pool is shared with the neighbours.

The Costa Smeralda story began 29 years ago when the Aga Khan was persuaded by some friends in the banking world to invest £25,000 in 7,400 acres of rugged



Buyer's Italy
SARDINIA

coastline sprinkled with silver sand coves in Sardinia's unspoilt north. Now, £500 million later, it is a glittering dream world of lovely beaches, fabulous yachts, staggeringly expensive hotels, high prices and no sense of reality.

Centred on the yacht harbour of Porto Cervo, where you could run into the King of Spain window shopping, it is an "antiqued" development. All the buildings are rustic in style, with not a new brick in sight to betray their youth.



High life: this three-bedroom detached villa costs £318,000

There has been no concrete explosion on the coastline; only a fraction of Costa Smeralda's coves will ever be developed. No seaside building can exceed two storeys and there will never be crowds. Most of this select area belongs to the Consorzio Costa Smeralda, which began as a property-owning

group of six friends headed by the Aga Khan. There are now 3,000 members (new property owners automatically become members of the consortium) owning 33 miles of coastline, with 25 miles of roads, mains water and electricity. It even has its own police force.

All new building is strictly controlled by the consortium, which demands high architectural standards. None can take place within 200 yards of the beach, so villas built before this rule was made change hands for fortunes.

The cheapest seaside house in the Costa Smeralda will cost at least £700,000, and £2 million-plus villas are not uncommon. This sort of money buys you luxury verging on opulence, in the form of a magnificent Renaissance-style property, with five bedrooms, staff quarters and an acre of manicured lawns that sweep down to the sea.

There are a few less expensive properties. One-bedroom balconied flats around Porto Cervo start at £90,000; semi-detached three-bedroom villas with sea views cost from £195,000.

The development of Casa del Golf, on the slopes of the Pevero golf course, with views, includes small apartments at £113,000, with two and three-bedroom units costing from £204,000.

Prices drop steeply away from the coast. A few miles inland there are some beautiful Sardinian farmhouses ripe for renovation, with exposed chestnut beams, antique fireplaces and old bread ovens. With enough land to build a swimming-pool and graze a few sheep, these cost from £50,000.

The holiday season is short in the Costa Smeralda — from June until late September — and jet-setters owning homes there take off for warmer climes during the winter.

The property laws of mainland Italy apply. The buyer pays a tax of around 4 per cent on newly built homes. Resales are taxed at 10 per cent. Notarial fees are about 2 per cent of the purchase price.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● Further details: Agenzia Immobiliare Porto Cervo, Via Cerdania, 07020 Porto Cervo, Sardinia. The UK agent to contact is Italia '92, Kingston House, 7 London Road, Old Stratford, Buckinghamshire (0908 56707).

Heap of the week: Lawton Hall, Cheshire

The agony of neglected heritage

LAWTON Hall in Cheshire is an agonising sight. What purpose is there in Britain's battery of preservation and planning laws if a house like this can go to ruin? The new national heritage minister and the entire House of Commons environment committee should be based here to inspect it.

Every pane of glass is broken — not thuggish vandalism but a decade of children throwing pebbles — and every one of the once elegant sashes has rotted away.

Yet Lawton is a fine and imposing red-brick house in a beautiful country setting, two miles from the National Trust's Little Moreton Hall, a few miles from Crewe and its fast train service to London, and within easy commuting distance of Stoke-on-Trent.

The entrance front looks out over banks of rhododendrons. All around are fine mature park trees. From the garden front you walk down to discover a large and

beautiful lake, encircled by yet more rhododendrons.

True, the approach is hardly inspiring, not past the Georgian church but through a large garage yard filled with buses and battered wrecks under repair.

Peter de Figureido in his book on Cheshire houses decided Lawton was built for Robert Lawton, who held the estate from 1736 to 1770, and that the wings were added for his grandson Charles in the 1830s. In the grounds he noted an 1853 memorial with a poem by Charles's wife, Marianne, commemorating a bullfinch that sang "God Save The Queen" when bidden to do so.

Until about ten years ago Lawton was leased as a boys' school, but the house was suffering from lack of maintenance and very soon after it was vacated water began to cascade through the roof, devastating the interior.

Conleiton district council, advised by the county council, has

drawn up schedules of repairs with a view to serving a repairs notice. But tragically this has not yet been issued. "The deterioration over the past five years has been horrific," a council officer says.

Lawton is one of the few heaps appearing in this column that, at least until recently, belonged to descendants of its builders.

About two years ago the house was offered for sale by the agents Louis Taylor, of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 260222). Michael Beardmore, one of the directors, said it was sold about 12 months ago to a "mysterious Mr Lawrence" from the Isle of Man, on a 150-year lease, on the condition that the house was renovated within two years. No premium was paid but a rising rent was to be charged throughout the period of the lease.

"I could have sold the house time and again had the Lawton family been willing to release the freehold," Mr Beardmore says.

The Lawtons now live in Kent.

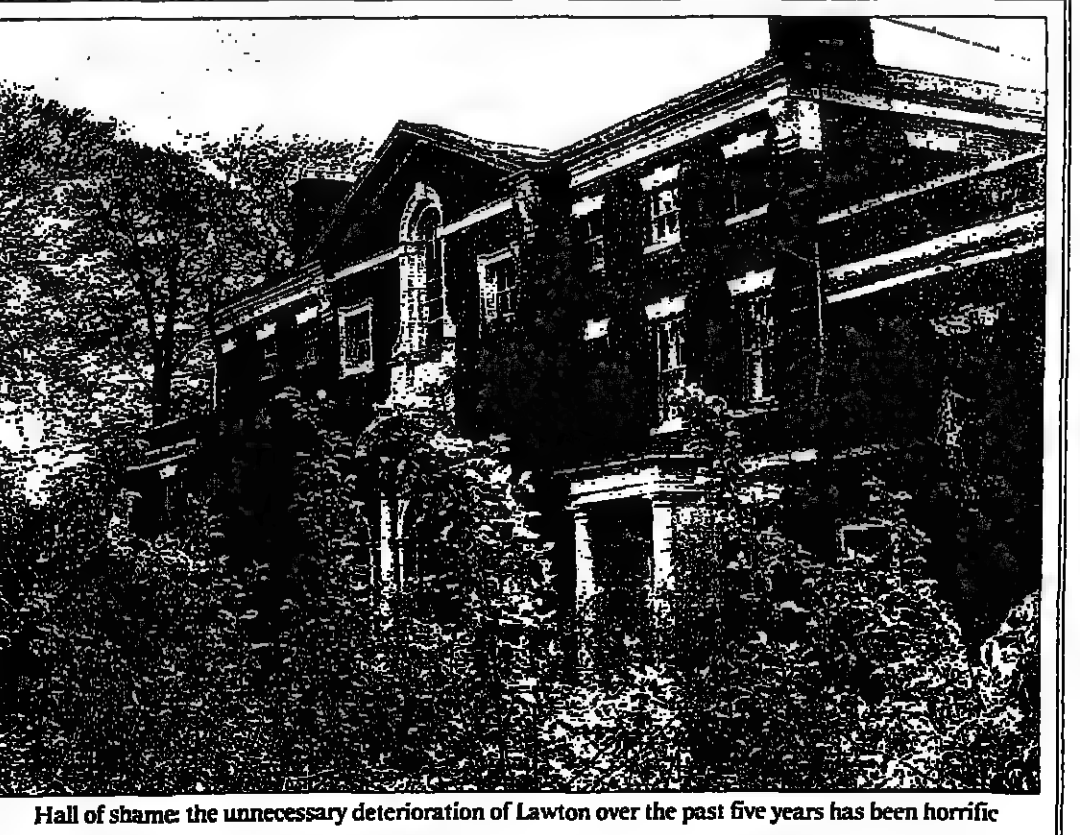
No repairs have yet been carried out and Conleiton council says it has had no approaches, discussions or planning applications during the past 12 months.

The council refrained from serving a repairs notice about 18 months ago because of the possibility of the sale. In the present, highly unsatisfactory circumstances, a repairs notice should be served forthwith on the freeholder, who has ultimate responsibility for the property. In view of the importance of the house, the repairs notice should be served by the heritage minister himself.

Planning permission has been given for use as a hotel and the council would consider offices or residential use. Any application to build in the grounds would be resisted, as this is green belt.

MARCUS BINNEY

● Further details from Conleiton district council (0270 763231).



Hall of shame: the unnecessary deterioration of Lawton over the past five years has been horrific

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Catch an old-style floor show

Mosaics and tiles turn floors into an art form, says Nicole Swengley

Original features are the favour of the moment. Fireplaces, cornices, windows and doors which suit the style and age of period properties are being restored or reinstalled by an increasing number of home-owners. But what can you do if you move into a home with a mosaic or tiled floor that needs repair? Do you strip it out and start again, or employ someone to spend a considerable amount of time and effort renovating it?

Emma Biggs, of the London company Mosaic Workshop, believes it is worth trying to save original floors. For anyone determined to refurbish an old floor she makes new tiles to fit into original schemes. Replacing individual tiles in the chequerboard hallways of Victorian houses is a frequent request. But Ms Biggs and her partner, Tessa Hunkin, also create unusual new designs using marble, ceramics, or glass mosaics, costing from £200 a square metre.

Alex Zdzankowicz, a designer for Paris Ceramics, agrees: "If you remove an original floor, you're destroying a piece of history. But the fact that a floor is old doesn't mean it should always be kept. Some designs are not as good as others." He endorses Ms Biggs's view that colour-matching tiles or mosaics is extremely difficult unless the original tiles are still manufactured. One solution is to take up the good tiles and make new patterns using complementary tiles as a border. That way, the originals can be retained without allowing the missing tiles to be eyesores.

Decorative border designs measuring 12in x 6in cost about £60 (all prices are plus VAT) from Paris Ceramics, while plain borders cost about £320 a square yard. A front doorstep measuring 3ft x 8in costs about £80 in plain, hand-cut stone mosaics, or about £275 for a decorative design. An additional cost of about £100 is charged for fitting.

Today's mosaics are too often a copy of Roman or Byzantine patterns, according to the French designer Pierre Mesguich, of the Paris-based workshop Mosaik. M Mesguich's mosaics, which are made of glass tiles, Venetian smalti



All fired up: an exhibition of Pierre Mesguich's mosaics is now on at Joseph, in Fulham Road. Soon he will open a gallery in Paris

(glass tesserae), glazed stones and gold leaf, are as likely to have been inspired by 1970s psychedelic light shows, Japanese gardens, African fabrics or the monasteries on Greek islands as by any historical influence.

A small exhibition of M Mesguich's mosaic panels, screens and tables is on display until July 12 at Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, London SW3, as a preview to the September opening of his Mosaik Gallery at 46 rue de l'Université, Paris. Here he will discuss flooring commissions and sell materials for DIY mosaics and ready-made panels. Eventually the gallery will sell hand-painted plates to match his mosaic table-tops and towels to co-ordinate with bathroom friezes.

Prices depend on the techniques and time involved in production. A

simple floor design may cost from £50 a square metre, while a complicated pattern involving intricate gold leafing may cost £500 a square metre. Mosaic-top tables cost £350 to £650.

Anyone considering a specially designed conservatory floor might contact Elaine Goodwin, whose book *Decorative Mosaics* (Charles Letts, £9.95) offers plenty of unusual ideas for anyone intrepid enough to try the medium themselves. Ms Goodwin makes Roman-style flooring with a central design acting as a focal point or abstract designs with marble chippings providing decorative detail between quarry tiles. Prices start from £100 a square foot.

"Mosaics have a timeless quality," she says. "People are fascinated by them because they are so tactile. They can be very classical or quite

exotic. They are historic but also look good in today's interiors." An alternative for conservatory flooring are Victorian-style encaustic tiles, which are tough and have dirt-dispelling patterns and colours. The term "encaustic" refers to the way the tiles are embossed, inlaid with another clay then fired to provide a hard-wearing and decorative surface.

The Life Enhancing Tile Company makes patterned encaustic tiles from about £11 each. Those made by Fired Earth cost from £34 (including VAT) a square yard and are available in six styles, each in six colours, allowing Victorian designs to be recreated.

Victorian geometric floor tiles, using traditional clays and colour stains, are made by Original Style. These can be bought individually to

recreate classic Victorian patterns by choosing from 14 shapes, each available in eight colours. Tiles cost from 70p for a red 6in square to £1.50 for a black octagon. A patterned floor costs between £35 and £100 a square metre.

Elaine Goodwin Mosaics, 4 Devonshire Place, Exeter EX4 6JA (0392 70943); Fired Earth, Middle Aston, Oxon OX5 3PX (0869 40724); The Life Enhancing Tile Company, Unit 4A, Alliance House, 14-28 St Mary's Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 5PE (0705 862709); Mosaic Workshop, 46 Churne Road, London N7 6AU (071-232 2997); Paris Ceramics, 583 King's Road, London SW6 2EH (071-371 7778); Original Style, Falcon Road, Sarnon Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon EX2 7LF (0392 216923); Pierre Mesguich, workshop, Mosaik, 17 rue Fouchard, 92110 Cligny, Paris (010331 47 30 98 10)

Silver anniversary of golden talent

The Annabel Jones jewellery company is still shining after 25 creative years

Viscountess Astor has never had a moment's boredom in her life. "Each morning I wake up and have at least two dozen new ideas in mind," she says, by way of explaining her many and diverse business interests. Annabel Astor's daunting creative capacity is responsible for her successful jewellery company Annabel Jones, which is celebrating its 25th year.

As well as designing jewellery, Lady Astor, aged 44, runs a soft furnishings firm from her Oxfordshire home and acts as a consultant for the Bond Street stationery company Smythson. She still manages to accommodate a busy private life with her husband William, Viscount Astor, and five children.

Lady Astor's jewellery business, which bears her maiden name, is based in Knightsbridge, but many of her clients do not visit the shop, preferring to order from the glossy catalogue the company produces annually.

Although she had no formal training in jewellery, Lady Astor is now a respected member of the trade. "I developed an interest in stones when I was 15," she says. "As a schoolgirl I sent off for catalogues and postcards of rocks and gems. I was terrible at school and left with few academic qualifications. I worked as a receptionist for three days, resigned and decided to try and set up my own shop."

There was a lack of well-designed jewellery in the late 1960s, most of it was chunky and ugly or very traditional. My shop started by selling other people's designs, but a year later I began designing.

The company's designs generally have a smooth and sensual feel. Engagement rings have stones set in almost flush settings instead of the traditional clutch of high-set diamonds. Heart shapes feature throughout the collection.

As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, Lady Astor is collating

a list of the 25 essential pieces of jewellery, including for example a fine gold neck chain, plain gold Russian ring and earrings. For an autumn show in the basement of the shop she is also creating a collection of 25 one-off pieces, including a headpiece which incorporates other pieces of jewellery such as earrings and bracelets.

Many of Annabel Jones's customers are women who have bought her jewellery before. More than 24,000 Annabel Jones glossy catalogues are sent out every year, many to America where customers are happy to fax through an order for thousands of pounds' worth of jewellery they have only seen in a picture.

"One man rang and ordered an £8,000 necklace and paid for it, but said he wouldn't collect it for a year, as it was for his wife on their next wedding anniversary," she says.

Over 25 years the shop has built up a family following. Girls who bought jewellery for themselves in the early days have gone on to add engagement rings, wedding and eternity rings and then children's presents. Children of the early Annabel Jones customers also shop there, buying gifts such as the silver collar pins (£39) and small round silver pill boxes (£26), which can be engraved.

"My own favourite jewellery is a set of ladybirds, a diamond-covered fly with movable wings and a set of large, encrusted 'bumble bees'," Lady Astor says. "The ladybirds often mass on my shoulder. People used to give me strange looks when they saw a swarm of insects on my dress, but those who know me know it's just my way. I think jewellery should be fun and that people should be more adventurous in the way they wear it."

VINNY LEE

Annabel Jones, 52 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, London SW3 (071-589 3215, fax 071-589 0546)



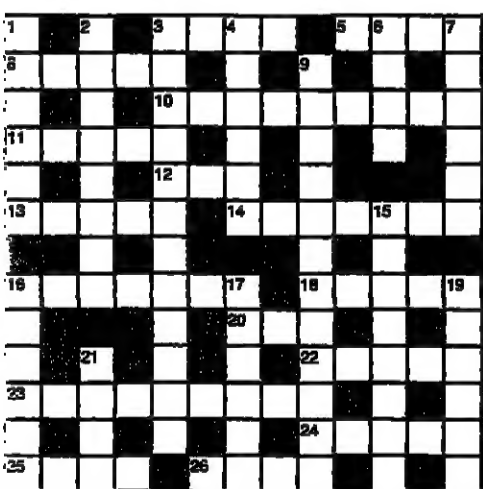
Her style: Annabel Astor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2826



ACROSS
3 Additional (4)
5 Stain (4)
10 Reorganisation (9)
11 Spoken (5)
12 Bull fight shout (3)
13 Continue uninterrupted (5,2)
14 Perfectionist (7)
16 Went to bed (7)
18 E Panama Canal port (5)
20 Gilbert and Sullivan prince (3)
23 Dine at home (3,2)
25 Silent (9)
24 Main arterial vessel (5)

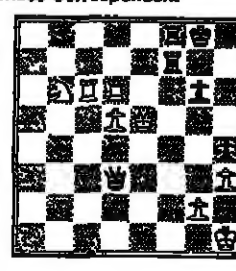
DOWN
1 Mentally alert (6)
2 Conic (8)
3 Godfather film star (5,6)
4 Took a chance (6)
6 Elevator (4)
7 Minor earthquake (6)
9 Cast conqueror (6,6)
15 Armed services (8)
16 Kidnap price (6)
17 Give commands (6)
19 Lean meat (3-3)
21 Swear (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2825
ACROSS: 1 Impede 5 End on 8 Lax 9 Temple 10 Abduct 11 Moss 12 Astonish 14 Senate 15 Necar 16 Emulating 18 Maya 19 Snide 21 Twelve 22 Hue 23 Hanky 24 Sente
DOWN: 2 Most one's match 3 En passant 4 Electric 5 Exalt 6 Dad 7 Necessary evil 13 No comment 15 Negate 17 Tidy 20 Tin

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Triandafylidis - Vlahos, Greece 1980. Black has sacrificed a piece for this position. What did he have in mind?



Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1... NB4+. The winners are: D. Bates, Chipping Norton; A. Palin, Liverpool; H.O. Dovey, Thetford.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 684412 of 1992
IN THE MATTER OF THE MELVILLE GROUP PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th June 1992 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named company by £3,120,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 15th June 1992.
DATED 24th 27th day of June 1992
NORTON ROSE
Kempson House
PO Box 570
London EC3A 7AN
Ref: AFR/63/517920
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 684412 of 1992
IN THE MATTER OF REPAIR plc
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
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DATED 24th 27th day of June 1992
NORTON ROSE
Kempson House
PO Box 570
London EC3A 7AN
Ref: AFR/63/517922
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Headbitch** (P) (6117331) 6.25 **Eureka's Castle** (P) (7817553) 6.35
Once Upon A Time... *Life* (P) (8933553)

7.25 **Blood Sweat and Glory**

● CHOICE: You will have to be an early riser, or set the video, to catch this history of sport which runs to 14 instalments and claims to be the greatest. The first episode, unsurprisingly with a commentary of crushing banality ("sport allows us to dream, to dream of glory"), while quotations from Thomas Hobbes, Ernest Hemingway and André Malraux reinforce the pompous tone. Things get better when the film switches from generalities to specifics, and traces the origins of sports involving animals, notably bulls and horses, and men fighting each other, the cue to bring in wrestling and boxing. The historical insights are of interest but the treatment is disappointingly brief and matter-of-fact. Far from being definitive, *Blood, Sweat and Glory* is a useful primer, one which leaves the subject more mysterious where it started (S) (7167262).

7.55 **Trans World Sport** (2895533) 9.00 **News Summary** (8634889)

9.15 **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (2358398)

10.00 **Sig On! At Leisure**. Carolyn Edwards takes a look at entertainment for the deaf (76114)

10.30 **Film: Scrooge** (1935, BV). Creaky version of the Dickens classic starring Seymour Hicks as the miser who is reformed by ghostly visitations. Directed by Henry Edwards (P) (8375756)

11.50 **Midweek Movie: Carolee**. Fun with the mythic Marge (7364982)

12.00 **Get Set: Snow**. Spoof starring Don Adams (797973)

12.30 **The Beverly Hills Cop**. Vintage comedy (44379)



Plodding detective script: Ivan Kaye as Sam Sterne (8.10pm)

8.10 Sam Saturday: On the Other Hand
• CHOICE: Television's latest police hero is Sam Sterne (Ivan Kaye), a youthful detective inspector. London-based and a Jew, since the Metropolitan Police has few Jewish officers, this gives the series a novel slant. There are few others. What strikes you about Sam Saturday is how little it has been touched by recent developments in the genre. Shows such as *The Bill* might never have happened. Although there are hints of drama in Sam's private life, what with a wife and two young kids and a bossy mum (Doreen Mantle) threatening to move in with him, tonight's main business is a plodding murder investigation straight out of a 1950s *B* movie with dialogue to match. "In my business I meet a lot of very attractive young women", says one of the suspects, while another exclaims: "I'd love to get the bastard that killed her!" (Oracle) (s) (11491 1)

9.10 World Championship Boxing. Jim Rosenthal presents live coverage of the 11th round, third defence of his WBO super middleweight title. Tonight Ron Seneff in Quintá do Lago, Portugal, Greg Gutsinger and Jiri Wadt provide the commentary (R72379)

10.10 The Chiefs: The Right Time. The Welsh singer is joined by the Chieftains, Bob Geldof and Lytle Lovett as he continues his exploration of the evolution of pop music (s) (881195)

10.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (591398) 10.55 **LWT weather** (945195)

11.00 Wolf. Detective drama series. Tony (Jack Scalia) takes a personal interest in a young girl trying to escape her pornographic past (171008)

11.05 Philp Marlowe: Private Eye starring Powers Boothe as the detective. Marlowe is set to attend his best friend's 11th wedding anniversary celebrations but learns that the man has been shot dead (662319)

12.55 Sam The Big E. Magazine programme for young Europeans (s) (7621515)

2.05 Music from the Bridge. Cyndi Lauper in concert (1052596)

3.35 The Music of London. New names on the music scene (3480486)

3.35 Indy Car Racing 1991. Budweiser G1 Joe's 200 (8529683)

3.35 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan introducing the latest on the club scene (s) (62486138)

5.30 ITN Morning News (443933)

59.9733 12.30 The Beverly Hillsbillie
(44379) 10.00 Film: Heller in Pink Tights
(Sophia Loren, Steve Forrest) (83378805)
2.35 Racing (4969339) 5.05 Bookings
(8031114) 6.50 American Heroes (4662
7.00 News and Sport (442755) 7.15 Sat
Mick Dalt: Hi (483943) 7.45 Today Time
(482114) 8.15 Lerpel y Brindidos Goo
(856669) 9.00 Evening Shade (4622) 9.30 4
Play (8219331) 10.35 Film Pierrot-le-Fou
(5439784) 12.40 The Twilight Zone
(6042393) 1.35 Close

RTS 1
Starte 10.10am Coconuts (3602244) 10.15
Fife and Ooze (3612843) 10.20 Ducktates
(238391) 10.50 The Monkeys (3943371)

Age Group	Percentage of respondents
18-29	65
30-49	75
50-69	80
70+	85

[illegible]

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8; Radio 2: FM-88-90.2; Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4; Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-52.4-54.6; Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; LBC: 1153kHz/261m; FM 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8; GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World
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